BEST OF VANCOUVER
From 13 January to 20 February 2011

When the best athletes in the world gather to compete, so too do the world's best sports photographers.

The Best of Vancouver represents a selection of the most striking imagery captured during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games – captured through the lenses of photographers from Agence France-Presse, The Associated Press, Reuters, Getty Images and Sports Illustrated.

From behind their lenses, photographers have a unique perspective. They preserve split seconds of history for all of us to savour long after the Olympic torch is extinguished.

“There is something very special about the Olympic Games. In an era where so much is choreographed and manipulated there is something purely organic about this amazing event. Athletes train for four years and travel from all over the world to lay it all on the line. It is one of the last truly real human displays. All the emotion is there with everything to win or lose. That is quite a serious responsibility for a photographer.”
Kevin Frayer, The Associated Press

“In sports photography, there is a perfect moment when what I like to call the “shapes in space” – the athlete, the ball, the opponent – all come together in perfect symmetry to make not only a meaningful photograph, but also one that’s appealing to the eye. The subjects and the story all fit in a graphically appealing way in the rectangle that is the picture. And the fraction of a moment when all these things come together in perfect visual and storytelling form, is when the photographer pushes the button. Perfect moments of emotion. The Olympic Games is a playground for a photographer. So many possibilities. So many competitions. So much emotion. It really doesn’t get better that that.”
Amy Sancetta, The Associated Press
A team from The Museum attends every edition of the Games, both summer and winter. Its task is to collect significant items that symbolize the edition concerned. It informs and raises the awareness of athletes, whether successful or not, and their entourage, encouraging them to donate an item that was worn or used during the Games. The objective is three-fold: to enable The Museum to immortalize the greatest moments in sport, to guarantee the legacy of the Games, and to create a resource for dialogue with the public. As a result, every two years, The Museum’s collections grow.

You will find here a small part of the items collected during the Vancouver Olympic Games, which took place from 12 to 28 February 2010.