

# Media Advisory

For Immediate Release  
December 31, 2009

## AGA joins New Year's Eve Downtown celebration

New AGA kicks off month-long countdown to opening with a New Year's Eve light show

Edmonton, AB – The **Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA)** is proud to join in *Events Edmonton's* celebration ushering in 2010 on the evening of **Thursday, December 31, 2009 at 9:00pm-12:30am**. The AGA's dramatic design, including the aurora borealis structure, at **2 Sir Winston Churchill Square**, will be showcased with specially designed and placed lighting, provided by *Allstar Show Industries*. The public will get a spectacular view of the building for 10-minute intervals at **9:45pm, 10:30pm and 11:45pm**, as well as during the countdown to midnight, when the Gallery will flash with each second. The night will conclude with the annual 10-minute pyrotechnic and fireworks display, illuminating the Square at midnight.

The new Gallery's light-up marks the beginning of the month-long countdown to the Art Gallery of Alberta's opening on **Sunday, January 31, 2010**. Admission will be free that day along with **Monday, February 1, 2010**. Admission will only be possible with free tickets, which will be available on AGA's new website, [youraga.ca](http://youraga.ca), starting **Monday, January 18, 2010 at noon**. AGA Members will receive advanced access to these tickets starting **Monday, January 4, 2010 at noon**. AGA Memberships are available for purchase now at [youraga.ca](http://youraga.ca) or by calling 780.422.6223.

When the doors to the new AGA open, Albertans will have access to three floors of exceptional exhibitions. Opening shows will include major works by **Edgar Degas** and **Francisco Goya**, celebrated Canadian photographers **Yousuf Karsh** and **Edward Burtynsky** and the internationally renowned Canadian artists **Janet Cardiff** and **George Bures Miller**. The AGA will also include a new children's gallery, *The BMO World of Creativity*, focusing on the theme of architecture for 2010. The AGA's new outdoor sculpture terrace will feature a work by Albertan **Ken Macklin**.

### ***New Year's Eve Downtown***

Thursday, December 31, 2009, 9:00pm-12:30am  
Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton, AB

-30-

For media information, please contact:  
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## ABOUT THE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA

The Art Gallery of Alberta is creating a new gallery—a “New Vision” for Alberta’s capital. After a global architectural competition, Los Angeles based Randall Stout Architects, Inc. was selected to design the new gallery. With opening exhibitions in early 2010, the new AGA will be an 25,500 square metre (85,000 square foot) premier presentation venue for international and Canadian art, education and scholarship. The new AGA will be a centre of excellence for the visual arts in Western Canada in the 21st century, expressing the creative spirit of Alberta and connecting people, art and ideas.

Founded in 1924, the Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) is the oldest cultural institution in Alberta and the only museum in the province strictly devoted to the exhibition and preservation of art and visual culture. Serving both the city of Edmonton and the province of Alberta, the Gallery maintains a collection of nearly 6,000 objects. The AGA is focused on the development and presentation of original exhibitions of contemporary and historical art; on building national and international curatorial partnerships for the creation of new exhibition projects; and on the development and delivery of a program of touring exhibitions that disseminate contemporary and historical art within Alberta and across Canada.

*The AGA is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the generous support of its Members, donors, sponsors and government. The Art Gallery of Alberta is grateful for the generous support of the many public and private donors and sponsors who have made the AGA's New Vision possible, as well as the ongoing support of the City of Edmonton, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The Canada Council for the Arts and its Members.*