

# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**  
**December 14, 2009**

## **Art Gallery of Alberta to open with two days of free admission**

Variety of events planned to mark the opening of Alberta's new art gallery

EDMONTON, AB – The **Art Gallery of Alberta** (AGA) is pleased to announce that it will open its new building on Sir Winston Churchill Square with two admission-free days on **Sunday, January 31** and **Monday, February 1, 2010**. To accommodate the large number of anticipated visitors, ticket holders will be welcomed at 30-minute intervals from **9:00 am to 9:00 pm** on each day.

Free tickets will be available on the **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 780.392.2465.

"We can't wait to welcome everyone to their new Art Gallery of Alberta. The opening weekend is a community celebration a major accomplishment of national significance", said **Gilles Hébert, AGA Executive Director**, "We invite all Albertans to come see some of the world's most incredible art and to take part in the many on-going events, programs, and services that have to offer. There will be lots to see and do at the new AGA—a most vibrant and exciting new gathering spot for the community."

The two-day opening event will provide the public with free access to their amazing new AGA, showcasing three floors of exceptional exhibitions. Opening shows will include major works by **Edgar Degas** and **Francisco Goya**, celebrated Canadian photographers **Yusuf 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**.

The AGA also features the **Singhmar Centre for Art Education**, an expanded facility that will be host to over 10,000 children through its school tour and studio programs each year. Visitors will have the opportunity to participate in an exciting line-up of events, art classes and public programs. More details about 2010 programming will be released in the coming weeks. Additional features include a shop, theatre, restaurant, café, espresso bar, and the Art Rental and Sales Gallery.

The AGA will welcome the public to a variety of events in the opening months. For those 18 year of age or older, there is a **late night art party** celebrating the Gallery's opening on **Saturday, February 6 at 8 pm**. Called **Refinery**, the party will be the first in a new series of three late night events at the AGA, themed around a major exhibition with performances and projects by Alberta-based artists.

For families and young art enthusiasts, there are two kid-focused opening events, **Qualico Family Day** on **Monday, February 15, 2010 from 11 am to 5 pm** and **HSBC All Day Sunday** on **February 16, 2010 from 1 to 4 pm**.

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The official ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place **Saturday, January 30, 2010**. The AGA's architect, Randall Stout along with dignitaries and representatives from all three levels of government will be attendance at the ceremony. **Media are welcome to attend** the ribbon-cutting event, running **10 am to 11 am** on **Saturday, January 30**, in the Gallery's **Ernest Manning Hall**.

Media must RSVP for this event, by contacting Sarah Hoyles, Media Relations & Communications Coordinator.

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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 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 our Members.*

## Media Contact

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