

Media Release

For Immediate Release
February 11, 2010

Family programming kicks-off at the new AGA

Valentine's Day marks the start of the gallery's enhanced family-focused activities

EDMONTON, AB – Exciting family programs at the new **Art Gallery of Alberta** (AGA) start this weekend. The AGA's family-focused activities provide an opportunity for families and people of all ages to spend time together while engaging with current exhibitions and learning about the art-making process.

"The AGA is for all Albertans, of all ages", says **Gilles Hébert, Executive Director**, "and with the great activities and programs we offer for children, families can make a full day of their visit to their AGA."

HSBC All Day Sundays are on-going full days of art activities that take place on the second Sunday of every month. Designed around current AGA exhibitions, **HSBC All Day Sundays** feature a new theme with new activities each month. On **February 14, 2010 at 10 am-5 pm**, **HSBC All Day Sunday** features the theme '**My Vintage Valentine**', inspired by the exhibition **EDGAR DEGAS: Figures in Motion**. Visitors of all ages can participate in Degas-inspired interactive activities, including card and locket making as well as dance instruction and more.

A brand new family program starting on February 24, 2010 is **Tours for Tots**. The Wednesday morning drop-in program takes place from 10-11:30 am and is designed for children aged 3-5, accompanied by an adult. Enrichment activities, such as art-making, story time, and scavenger hunts encourage close-looking and promote visual literacy skills in young children. This program is free with regular gallery admission.

The AGA has also created an **Art Adventure Guide book**, which allows families to enjoy self-guided tours at their own pace during any Gallery visit. The free, specially-designed logbooks, filled with facts, games and hands-on exercises, help all gallery-goers, young and old, to connect with the art at the AGA. A new guide book will be produced for each of the AGA exhibition blocks with a focus on the artworks currently on display.

For more information on family programming at the AGA, please visit youraga.ca.

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ABOUT THE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA

The Art Gallery of Alberta is a centre of excellence for the visual arts in Western Canada, connecting people, art and ideas. The AGA is focused on the development and presentation of original exhibitions of contemporary and historical art from Alberta, Canada and around the world. The AGA also offers a full-range of art education and public programs. Founded in 1924, the Art Gallery of Alberta maintains a collection of over 6,000 objects and is the oldest cultural institution in Alberta and the only museum in the province solely dedicated to the exhibition and preservation of art and visual culture. The AGA recently underwent a major re-building project. Designed by Los Angeles architect Randall Stout, the 85,000 sq foot (7,900 sq metres) new AGA opens to the public on January 31, 2010. The new Gallery features three floors of premiere exhibition space; the City of Edmonton Terrace; the Singhmar Centre for Art Education; Zinc resto lounge; shopAGA; Ledcor Theatre and an Art Rental and Sales Gallery.

The Art Gallery of Alberta is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the support of its Members, donors, sponsors and government. The AGA 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.

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