

Media Release

For Immediate Release
April 1, 2010

The Art Gallery of Alberta announces its summer exhibitions

Upcoming exhibitions showcase M.C. Escher, Bugs Bunny, Piranesi, 25 Alberta artists and the AGA's permanent collection

EDMONTON, AB – The Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) is pleased to announce six dynamic summer exhibitions that will feature remarkable art from our region, the country and around the world. The new exhibitions will explore the past, present and future of Alberta art, trace the career of one of the most recognizable printmakers of the 20th century and stir the imaginations of both young and old.

“Building on our remarkable opening, the Gallery staff continues to seek out and present the best art from our region, Canada and beyond,” says **Gilles Hébert**, AGA **Executive Director**. “We intend to build on our amazing momentum. Forget going to the movies... the blockbuster this summer is the AGA.”

The three floors of exhibitions continue to demonstrate the AGA's commitment to presenting the highest calibre art in its role as a Gallery of national significance. Opening **May 29, 2010**, **TIMELAND: 2010 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art**, will feature works by 24 established and emerging Albertan artists; also opening, the premiere of **Sandra Bromley: FIRE**. Three weeks later, on **June 19, 2010**, **M.C. ESCHER: The Mathemagician**, **PIRANESI'S PRISONS: Architecture of Mystery and Imagination** and **The Art of Warner Bros. Cartoons** will open. Rounding out the summer schedule is **Reframing a Nation**, an exhibition showcasing works from the AGA's permanent collection, opening **June 26, 2010**.

Catherine Crowston, AGA **Deputy Director/Chief Curator** underscores the significance of these exhibitions. “The AGA is committed to developing new exhibitions for our audiences and to bringing exciting travelling exhibitions to the Alberta public. Our summer line-up celebrates both creativity of Alberta artists and shows that over the centuries and across countries artists are inspired by each other and fuel our imaginations.

When it opens in late May, the **Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art** will be the 7th incarnation of this unique initiative in Canada, which brings national attention to the Alberta arts scene. The 2010 Alberta Biennial will feature a cross-generational selection of 24 artists from across the province. **TIMELAND: 2010 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art**, the title, emerged as Curator **Richard Rhodes**, the Editor of **Canadian Art Magazine**, selected the artists and works from the more than 200 submissions. Rhodes could not ignore the effect the geography of Alberta had on its residents and artists. The exhibition will occupy all 6,000 square feet of the third floor gallery space with pieces ranging from sculpture, photography, film, music and textiles from artists like Lethbridge's **Cedar Tavern Singers** and Edmonton's **David Cantine**. A complete list of artists can you found at youraga.ca. The exhibition will run until **August 29, 2010**.

Also opening at the end of May, **Sandra Bromley: FIRE**, in the **RBC New Works Gallery**. Bromley is known for her collaboration with Wallis Kendal on **The Gun Sculpture**, which has shown at the Edmonton Art Gallery, the Canadian Pavilion in Germany at Expo 2000, in the Nobel Prize exhibition in Seoul Korea, the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa and finally, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. In this exhibition, the Albertan artist continues her anti-war discourse. **Sandra Bromley: FIRE** is the premiere of an installation comprising of video-portraits, altered ready-mades, light-boxes and neutralized rifles, representing victims of violence from Sierra Leone conflict zones. It will be on display **May 29-August 2, 2010**.

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Opening in mid-June are two exhibitions presented as part of *The National Gallery at the Art Gallery of Alberta*, with the support of *Capital Powered Art*, an exhibition series sponsored by Capital Power Corporation. This unique partnership brings important art from the nation's collection to Albertans. For summer 2010, the AGA will present *M.C. ESCHER: The Mathemagician* and *PIRANESI'S PRISONS: Architecture of Mystery and Imagination*.

Curated by the AGA's Deputy Director/Chief Curator **Catherine Crowston**, *M.C. ESCHER: The Mathemagician*, runs from **June 19-October 11, 2010**. It will feature 54 works selected from the National Gallery of Canada collection including world famous works from the "impossible architecture" series and other iconic images. This exhibition offers a unique look at the span of Escher's career and includes his early Italian landscapes along with many of his most recognizable images.

Giovanni Battista Piranesi's haunting architectural fantasies (*Carceri d'invenzione*) will be featured in *PIRANESI'S PRISONS: Architecture of Mystery and Imagination*, running **June 19-November 7, 2010**. Published in 1749-1750 and again in 1761 the works continue to rouse the imagination of artists and architects alike.

The Art of Warner Bros. Cartoons traces the development of the studio's cartoon stars, providing a step-by-step breakdown of how classic cel animation was made. The exhibition will allow older generations to reminisce while younger audiences get to know the groundbreaking, irreverent animation crafted by the Warner Brothers' Studio between 1935 and 1964. The exhibition runs **June 19-October 11, 2010**.

Rounding out the six summer exhibitions is *Reframing a Nation*, running **June 26-November 7, 2010**. The exhibition will explore the myths about Canada, shaped through the collections of Canadian museums. The exhibition draws on the large donation of art to the AGA by the Estate of Ernest E. Poole in 1975.

The AGA will continue to offer its diverse array of exciting public programs for families, youth and adults. Highlights include the *Animation Week*, featuring a talk by **Emmy-award winning Gary Panter**, head set designer for the TV show *Pee Wee's Playhouse* on **July 8**; *Refinery*, the second AGA late night art party on **July 10**; curator's introductions to exhibitions; a closing party for the *Alberta Biennial* featuring *Cedar Tavern Singers* in late **August**; a **screening** of Warner Bros. cartoons and a **talk** hosted by **Gene Walz** in **September**, and an art-inspired **book club**. A fresh line-up of art classes for kids, youth and adults, inspired by new exhibitions, will also be offered.

For more information on the AGA upcoming exhibitions and related programming, please see attached **Backgrounder** or 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; Shop AGA; 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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