

# Media Release

For Immediate Release  
May 28, 2010

## New exhibition at the Art Gallery of Alberta offers a closer look at Alberta's art scene *The 7<sup>th</sup> Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art* features 24 artists from the province

EDMONTON, AB – The Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) is proud to present works by 24 emerging and established Albertan artists in *TIMELAND: 2010 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art* opening **May 29** and running until **August 29, 2010**.

The 2010 Alberta Biennial, titled *TIMELAND*, is guest curated by **Richard Rhodes**, Editor of the national visual arts magazine, *Canadian Art*. This is the first Alberta Biennial to be curated by a non-Albertan, providing a distinct perspective on the contemporary Alberta visual arts scene. During the fall of 2009, he visited artists' studios all over the province and selected a cross-generational mix of artists for this, the 7<sup>th</sup> installment of the Alberta Biennial.

Richard Rhodes explains his curatorial vision; the exhibition reflects “the diversity of the Alberta landscape, where space can be measured in geological, durational and cultural timeframes. The 2010 Alberta Biennial presents twenty-four artists working across the spectrum of contemporary art making modes” says Rhodes. “It blends both emerging and established generations of artists to create a snapshot of the vitality of the contemporary Alberta art scene. Presented in the new Art Gallery of Alberta, it marks the beginning of both a new decade and new possibilities for contemporary art in Alberta.”

The 2010 *Alberta Biennial* artists are: Paul Bernhardt, Ken Buera, David Cantine, The Cedar Tavern Singers (AKA Les Phonoréalistes) - Daniel Wong & Mary-Anne McTrowe, Jason de Haan, Alan Dunning, Paul Woodrow, Robert Geyer, Kristin Ivey, Kris Lindskoog, Wednesday Lupypciw, Walter May, Rita McKeough, Chris Millar, David M. C. Miller, Ron Moppett, Lyndal Osborne, Scott Rogers, Danny Singer, Justin Waddell, John Will, Chris Willard, Clint Wilson. (For artist bios and a list of works, please see the attached Backgrounder)

The 2010 *Alberta Biennial* is presented by **ATB Financial** as the Alberta-based company partners with the AGA to help to tell the story of Alberta art. The five-year joint venture between the financial institution and the Gallery will support three substantial programs, including the *Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art*, the *ATB Financial Alberta Early Masters Series*, launching in 2011, and the *ATB Young Alberta Artists Competition*. **Peggy Garritty**, ATB Financial's Senior Vice-President of Communications and Corporate Responsibility, said the AGA partnership fits perfectly with ATB's new emphasis on celebrating Alberta stories.

“The Biennial is vitally important to the Gallery's role as THE champion of Alberta visual art. ATB Financial is thrilled to celebrate Alberta art and artists through the Biennial, and to partner with the AGA on two new initiatives exploring the history and future of Alberta art that will launch in the coming months.”

As part of the exhibition, the AGA has developed a 77-page full-colour catalogue as well as a specially designed website devoted to the 2010 *Alberta Biennial*. The website gives the public, regardless of their geographical location, all-access to

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this celebration of Alberta's visual arts scene. To view the website, please visit: [albertabiennial.youraga.ca](http://albertabiennial.youraga.ca).

The AGA is also presenting a range of public programs and events for kids, youth and adults alike that explore Alberta and our visual arts scene. **TIMELAND: Panel & Party** on **Tuesday, June 29 at 7 pm**, brings together leading thinkers from across Canada to discuss contemporary art in Alberta. The panel, featuring **Candice Hopkins, Andrew Hunter, Robert Enright, Richard Rhodes** and **Nancy Tousley**, is followed by a party on the AGA's outdoor City of Edmonton Terrace. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for AGA Members and are available at [youraga.ca](http://youraga.ca). A closing party featuring the music of Alberta Biennial artists **The Cedar Tavern Singers** will take place on **Friday, August 27 at 7 pm**. (For a complete list of related programs and events see the attached Backgrounder).

**Catherine Crowston**, the Art Gallery of Alberta's Deputy Director/Chief Curator addresses the history and significance of the tradition, "the *Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art* is the largest of exhibition of its kind in the province, and demonstrates the AGA's commitment to the work of local contemporary artists. Since its inception in 1996, the Alberta Biennial has featured the work of 121 different Alberta artists and brought national attention to the art scene in the province."

The Art Gallery of Alberta (formerly The Edmonton Art Gallery) has played a leadership role in the development of this exhibition, which has been presented in partnership with other provincial arts organizations including: The Glenbow Museum, the Illingworth Kerr Gallery at the Alberta College of Art and Design, the Nickle Arts Museum at the University of Calgary, the Art Gallery of Calgary and the Walter Phillips Gallery at The Banff Centre, over the last 14 years

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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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