

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release
May 14, 2010

\$120,000 raised for Art Gallery of Alberta

Albertans bid on more than 80 works of art at AGA's largest annual fundraiser

EDMONTON, AB – The 12th annual *Art on the Block* silent auction at the **Art Gallery of Alberta** (AGA) on **Wednesday, May 12** raised approximately \$120,000. More than 500 people attended the cocktail party and participated in the art auction supporting the Gallery's exhibitions and educational programming.

\$100,000 worth of art donated by artists and local commercial galleries and private collectors was up for auction. Ranging in value from \$150 to \$15,000, there were works by notable artists such as **David Cantine, Edward Burtynsky, George Littlechild, Liz Ingram, John Will, and Ron Moppett**. One of the most sought after pieces was ***No one else seemed to notice but the two of them***, a photograph by **Mark Freeman**, that went for **four times appraised value**. Another big draw was a photograph by **Laura St. Pierre**. Work by Alberta-based St. Pierre will be exhibited at the AGA in fall 2010. Her solo show will be showcased in the *RBC New Works Gallery*, a space at the AGA which exclusively features new works by Alberta artists. Also auctioned off in the two lots were ***Big Board*** and ***Art-inspired*** items.

The event was sponsored by **Architecture Arndt Tkalcic Bengert, Lexus of Edmonton** and **Zinc Restaurant & Zinc Catering**. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, desserts and even got an exclusive sampling of the salads on *Zinc* restaurant's yet-to-be-released summer menu. Local singer-songwriter Kira Hladun as well as Harman B & DJ Kwake from *The Bounce* entertained the guests as they mingled in the auction and outside on *The City of Edmonton Terrace*.

During the event **Executive Director, Gilles Hébert**, on behalf of the Gallery staff and Board of Directors, expressed great appreciation for the generosity displayed by the organization's supporters. "We are so fortunate to enjoy the support of our region's arts and business communities. Without a doubt, we could not present the significant historical and contemporary art exhibitions from our region, country and beyond; paired with our innovative educational programs, if not for each and every supporter. "

The \$120,000 in proceeds, generated through the ticket sales and auction items will support and foster the development of future exhibitions and education programs at the AGA. The not-for-profit Gallery's annual art auction will take place again in the spring of 2011.

For media information or images for media use, please contact:
Sarah Hoyles, Media Relations & Communications Coordinator
T: 780.392.2468 E: sarah.hoyles@youraga.ca

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 more than 6,000 objects and is the oldest cultural institution in Alberta. It is 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 opened 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.