

Media Release

For Immediate Release
June 15, 2010

New season of exhibitions launches at the Art Gallery of Alberta

AGA's blockbuster summer features Escher, Piranesi and Warner Bros., along with works by some of Canada's most important historical artists

EDMONTON, AB – Beginning **Saturday, June 19, 2010**, Albertans and visitors to our province will have the opportunity to see *M.C. ESCHER: The Mathemagician*, *PIRANESI'S PRISONS: Architecture of Mystery and Imagination* and *The Art of Warner Bros. Cartoons* at the **Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA)**. One week later, on **June 26, 2010**, the AGA will also open *Reframing a Nation*, the first exhibition of works from the Gallery's permanent collection since the opening of its new building in January 2010.

M.C. ESCHER: The Mathemagician, features 54 works by one of the most recognizable printmakers of the 20th century, Dutch-born **M.C. Escher**. Curated by the AGA's Deputy Director/Chief Curator **Catherine Crowston**, this exhibition offers a unique look at the span of Escher's career, representing the different themes and areas of study that fascinated the artist throughout his life. The exhibition includes his less known early Italian landscapes along with many of his most recognizable images, including world famous works from the "impossible architecture" series. The works in *M.C. ESCHER: The Mathemagician* are from the collection of the National Gallery of Canada and presented as part of the *The National Gallery at the Art Gallery of Alberta*.

A **Curator's Introduction** with **Catherine Crowston** will take place on **Friday, June 25 at 6:30 pm**. Tickets for this event are free, but must be booked online at youraga.ca. The exhibition runs **June 19, 2010 to October 11, 2010**.

Also presented as part of *The National Gallery of Canada at the Art Gallery of Alberta* is the exhibition *PIRANESI'S PRISONS: Architecture of Mystery and Imagination*, running **June 19 to November 7, 2010**. This exhibition features renowned Italian artist **Giovanni Battista Piranesi's** haunting architectural fantasies from the famous print series *Carceri d'invenzione* of the 1700s. Published in 1749–1750 and again in 1761 the works continue to rouse the imagination of artists and architects alike. The AGA will feature the superb second edition from the collection of the National Gallery of Canada, complemented by a selection of 5 prints from the first edition.

The National Gallery at the Art Gallery of Alberta is a unique partnership is exclusive to the AGA and is made possible with the support of the **Capital Power Corporation** through *Capital Powered Art*. The program enables the AGA to continually bring important art from our nation's collection to Albertans.

The Warner Bros. Studio developed and perfected the kind of antic, street-smart humour that continues to characterize animated cartoons. *The Art of Warner Bros. Cartoons* allows older generations to reminisce while younger audiences get to know the groundbreaking, irreverent animation crafted by the Warner Bros. Studio between 1935 and 1964. This major exhibition features 165 drawings, paintings and animation cels used in the making of Warner's classic cartoons. It traces the development of the studio's cartoon stars, such as Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Porky Pig, by providing a step-by-step breakdown of how classic cel animation was made. The exhibition runs **June 19 to October 11, 2010**.

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In addition to daily screenings of classic cartoons, the AGA will present a wide-range of animation-inspired programs and events to complement the exhibition. *Animation Week*, running **July 5-11**, features talks, films and workshops that celebrate the world of animation. See attached backgrounder for details.

Reframing a Nation, running **June 26 to November 7, 2010**, explores the role that landscape plays in the construction of Canadian identity. Drawing on the large donation of art to the AGA by the Ernest E. Poole Foundation in 1975, this exhibition looks at myths about Canada and how they are shaped through the long tradition of Canadian landscape painting. The exhibition feature works by Canadian artists such as Frederick Verner, Cornelius Krieghoff, Tom Thomson, The Group of Seven, Emily Carr and David Milne. *Reframing a Nation* also includes a photographic mural by contemporary artist Maria Hupfield, an artist of Anishnaabe (Ojibway) heritage, and a member of Wasauksing First Nation in Ontario.

**Media are invited to attend the Opening Reception for all four exhibitions
Friday, June 25, 7:30-10 pm**

Please RSVP to oksana.gowin@youraga.ca

The four new exhibitions will be presented in conjunction with the recently opened *TIMELAND: 2010 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art* and *Sandra Bromley: FIRE*, continuing the AGA's commitment to presenting the highest calibre of local, national and international art.

For more information on AGA 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.

Media Contact

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