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AGCcooks: THE ART OF CUISINE

March 19, 2009 CALGARY, ALBERTA --- Join The Art Gallery of Calgary on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 for the 7th annual AGCcooks: The Art of Cuisine spring fundraiser, when the gallery will be transformed into a kitchen stadium.

This friendly culinary competition will showcase the talents of six of Calgary's top area chefs: Chris Walker of *The Belvedere*, James Water of *raw bar*, Joanne McFadden of *Piq Niq*, Glen Manzer of *Bonterra Trattoria*, Justin Leboe of *rush*, and Andrew Keen of *ParkerHouse*.

Each Chef will create a four-course feast designed around a secret ingredient chosen by Calgary food writer and CBC restaurant critic, John Gilchrist. The "secret ingredient" will be unveiled two days prior to the event. Last year, the secret ingredients were whole chicken, smoked chicken and eggs, locally provided by Sunworks Farm.

The results will be announced at the end of the evening, in the form of three esteemed awards: AGCcooks People's Choice Award, determined by guests; AGCcooks Media Food Critic Award, determined by renowned 2009 media food critics; and the AGCcooks Sommelier Award - new this year - to be determined by the evening's media food critics. Last year, Chris Spronk of *Bistro Piq Niq* received the coveted People's Choice Award, and Duncan Ly of *raw bar* walked away with the Media Food Critic Award.

Only 96 tickets are available to this exclusive event, enabling an intimate dining experience with some of Calgary's top chefs. Tickets are \$250 per person, with a \$150 tax receipt issued per ticket. All proceeds go toward supporting The Art Gallery of Calgary's renowned art education programs for school children from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

The Art Gallery of Calgary is a non-profit, non-collecting, public contemporary art gallery. The AGC is recognized and valued locally, nationally, and internationally for the quality of its contemporary art exhibitions and programs.

The Art Gallery of Calgary acknowledges the generous support of Stardust Event Group; blue hydrangea floral boutique; Murphy Image Photography; Industry Images; Citytv; The Calgary Herald; Energy 101.5; Table Talk; Cruising Café; Charton Hobbs; Moët & Chandon Champagne; Cloudy Bay; Belvedere Vodka; Nectar Desserts; Coast Wholesale Appliances; and participating restaurants The Belvedere, raw bar, Bistro Piq Niq, Bonterra Trattoria, rush, and ParkerHouse.

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Laura Hutchinson, Manager, Marketing and Communications
lhutchinson@artgallerycalgary.org
403.770.1352
www.artgallerycalgary.org
www.artison.org