

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE ART GALLERY OF CALGARY'S ART AUCTION, MASTERPIECE RAISES OVER \$90,000

OCTOBER 17, 2008, CALGARY, ALBERTA --- The Art Gallery of Calgary's first fundraising art auction, MASTERPIECE 2008, raised over 90,000 dollars last week for Art Education Programs for school children Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Thank you to The Art Gallery of Calgary's many generous supporters, sponsors and donors for making MASTERPIECE a great success. Valerie Cooper, President and CEO for The Art Gallery of Calgary states "As an organisation, we were excited and thrilled to see so many people join us for MASTERPIECE 2008. There was an amazing collection of artworks for sale. It was wonderful to see the Calgary community come together and make a connection with the artworks."

Showcased in MASTERPIECE was the Elizabeth Blackwell Test Plate from Judy Chicago's groundbreaking work *The Dinner Party*, which did not sell. Judy Chicago has generously extended her offer to donate the proceeds raised from her plate if it is sold before January 2010.

The Art Gallery of Calgary's Board of Directors would like to thank Barbara Ross, Chair of the MASTERPIECE 2008 organizing committee and The Friends of The Art Gallery of Calgary for their time, expertise and experience, in helping make this fundraiser possible. The Art Gallery of Calgary would also like to acknowledge the generous support of its patrons Dr. John R. Lacey, Ms. Gwen Randall and Ms. Diane Hobson.

The Art Gallery of Calgary is a non-profit, non-collecting contemporary art gallery, recognized and valued locally, nationally and internationally for the quality and integrity of its contemporary art exhibitions and programs. We help make art part of everyday life by creating opportunities for people to actively participate in the cultural life of their community. The Art Gallery of Calgary's mandate is to present quality contemporary art and inspiring educational programming for people of all ages.

The Art Gallery of Calgary acknowledges the generous support of it's patrons Dr. John R. Lacey, Ms. Gwen Randall and Ms. Diane Hobson and supporting sponsors Avenue Magazine; blue hydrangea; Calgary Herald; Citytv; Energy 101.5; Industry Images; infuse catering; Murphy Images; Stardust Event Group.

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