



AGC SHOWCASES SENIOR AND EMERGING FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS

New exhibition celebrates Alex Janvier as part of the Alberta Biennial

Calgary AB, August 15, 2007— An important survey exhibition of paintings by Dene artist Alex Janvier opens at the Art Gallery of Calgary on Friday, September 7, 2007. This exhibition, called *The Alberta Biennial Celebrates Alex Janvier*, is part of the *2007 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art: Living Utopia and Disaster* and is presented in collaboration with the Walter Phillips Gallery at The Banff Centre and the Art Gallery of Alberta. The Janvier exhibition is comprised of over 30 works and will be on view at the AGC through January 5, 2008.

Alex Janvier is one of Canada's most influential Aboriginal artists and his modernist abstract paintings have played an important role in the development and recognition of Canadian native art. His work presents a unique approach to political concerns through his signature style of curvilinear, gestural painting strokes, abstract imagery and biting political commentary.

The artist will be in attendance and in conversation with Lee-Ann Martin, Curator of Contemporary Canadian Aboriginal Art at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Gatineau, Quebec), in partnership with The Alberta Society of Artists.

The artist talk is open to the public and at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, **September 7, 2007**. A free public opening for this exhibition is from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The *2007 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art: Living Utopia and Disaster* features two interconnected exhibitions: a large group exhibition of the work of 22 Alberta artists produced by the Banff Centre's Walter Phillips Gallery and the Art Gallery of Alberta; and this Janvier exhibition, which is curated by the AGC's Chief Curator, Donna Wawzonek.

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RED EYE—First Nations Short Film and Video

The Art Gallery of Calgary is pleased to present *RED EYE: First Nations Short Film and Video*. *RED EYE* features 21 films and videos by 19 First Nations artists screened continuously throughout the day during the galleries open hours in the AGC's Media Gallery on view from August 31, 2007 to January 5, 2008.

A free public opening for this exhibition is on **Friday, September 7, 2007** from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

RED EYE is curated by Ryan Rice, the Aboriginal Curator in Residence at the Carlton University Art Gallery. It features an eclectic range of First Nations film and video artists who approach the ever-evolving forms of film and video as an extension to their established body of artwork or as a vehicle for experimenting with narrative storytelling.

In *RED EYE*, 19 the artists manipulate and defy conventional film genres like sci-fi, horror and comedy to address social, cultural and political themes. At the same time, each short explores, challenges and breaks away from stagnant cardboard depictions of Hollywood-style "Indians" that still appear in mainstream film.

RED EYE: First Nations Short Film and Video is curated by Ryan Rice, Aboriginal Curator in Residence at the Carlton University Art Gallery. Organized and circulated by Carleton University Art Gallery.

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