



## **New exhibition celebrates Alex Janvier—one of Canada’s most influential Aboriginal artists**

**Calgary AB, August 30, 2007**— Alex Janvier’s modernist abstract paintings have played an important role in the development and recognition of Canadian native art. A new exhibition opening at the Art Gallery of Calgary on **September 7** showcases a selection of paintings from Janvier’s career from the 1970s to the present. 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 more than 30 works and will be on view at the AGC through January 5, 2008.

Alex Janvier will be in conversation with Lee-Ann Martin, Curator of Contemporary Canadian Aboriginal Art from the Canadian Museum of Civilization, on Friday, September 7 starting at 6:30 p.m. This artist’s talk is presented in partnership with The Alberta Society of Artists. It will be followed by an opening reception from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Alex Janvier grew up on Cold Lake First Nations Reserve, Alberta and at the Blue Quill Residential Indian School near St. Paul, Alberta. He studied Fine Art at the Alberta College of Art and Design and has had solo shows including *Alex Janvier: Negotiating the Land* at the Mendel Art Gallery and *The Art of Alex Janvier: His First Thirty Years, 1960-1990*, circulated from the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. His paintings are in many notable art collections including the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Alberta and the Glenbow Museum. Alex Janvier is to receive the Order of Canada in October, 2007.

The works in this exhibition are a selection of his painting from the last 30 years, and follow the development and shifts in his signature style of curvilinear, gestural painting strokes, abstract imagery and biting political commentary. *The Alberta Biennial Celebrates Alex Janvier* includes new paintings inspired by Janvier’s access to the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range and his witness of the devastation of its landscape.

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The AGC is proud to present this exhibition in conjunction with the *2007 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art: Living Utopia and Disaster*. The political content in Janvier's work is well suited to the themes of utopia and disaster in this year's Alberta Biennial. Janvier's approach to political concerns has ranged in his over 50-year career from anger to cynicism to humour and now, his new works confront the decimation of traditional hunting and fishing lands.

The *2007 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art: Living Utopia and Disaster* features two inter-connected 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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