

Glenbow Museum

For Immediate Release

July 21, 2008

An Exhibition So BIG ... Glenbow Needs Three Venues to Show it!

The BIG Gift: Calgary Celebrates Art from Canadian

CALGARY, ALBERTA – Glenbow Museum brings you the art event of the summer! *The BIG Gift: Calgary Celebrates Art from Canadians* is opening at the museum on July 26th! Come feast your eyes on approximately 200 works of contemporary art – including painting, sculpture, videos, art installations and photography. The range is stunning.

The idea for this exhibition was sparked after hundreds of donated artworks began arriving at the museum's doors last December. The art came in from supporters across the country in a spontaneous show of affection for Glenbow's newly appointed President and CEO Jeff Spalding, and the museum's renewed commitment to art.

Glenbow's Art Curators knew immediately the demand to see this art, and a sampling of other donated works, would be through the roof! They began planning this exciting exhibition, including where to show these magnificent works.

"This is a huge exhibition so we had to extend it beyond Glenbow's four walls," said Glenbow Art Curator Quyen Hoang. "The museum is partnering with two of our city's premier galleries, the Illingworth Kerr Gallery at the Alberta College of Art and The Nickle Arts Museum at the University of Calgary, to celebrate and show these offerings."

The offerings have swelled over the last several months and to-date, over 900 artworks have been donated to Glenbow. Most of the gifts are by Canadian artists and were donated by Canadians, including 14 Alberta donors.

The BIG Gift: Calgary Celebrates Art from Canadians showcases work by both emerging and internationally renowned artists from near and far in this exhibition including work by Kim Adams, Evergon, David Hockney, Raymonde April, Peter von Tiesenhausen, Chris Cran, Mary Scott, Edward Burtynsky and Jonathan Forrest. There's also a giant fiberglass green soldier by Douglas Coupland. Known for his books and for popularizing the term "Generation X", Coupland is also a visual artist. His Green Soldier Number One is a six-foot version of a molded plastic toy soldier and is a striking sight in Glenbow's gallery.

"This three-venue show is unprecedented," said Jeff Spalding, Glenbow President and CEO, "Not only is the content of the show extraordinary, the spirit of partnership, first with donors from across the nation and now with these two great galleries, is outstanding. This exhibition is a must-see this summer!"

WHAT: Media Preview of *The BIG Gift: Calgary Celebrates Art from Canadians*.

WHEN: Friday, July 25, 2008
Call Karin Põldaas for interviews at 403.268.4246

WHERE: Glenbow Museum
130- 9th Avenue S.E.

The BIG Gift exhibition dates and details:

- **Glenbow Museum**
July 26 – September 14, 2008
Public Opening: July 26 ALL DAY! 9 am – 5 pm
FREE ADMISSION UNTIL NOON.
- **The Nickle Arts Museum, University of Calgary**
June 6- September 27, 2008 (east gallery)
June 20 – July 25, 2008 (main gallery)
- **Illingworth Kerr Gallery, Alberta College of Art + Design**
July 3 – August 30, 2008

-30-

Glenbow is a museum, art gallery, library and archives, all under one roof. One of Canada's largest museums, Glenbow boasts more than 1 million artifacts, over 31 thousand works of art, approximately 100 thousand books and 2 million photographs in its vast collections. Created in 1966 through the generosity of founder Eric L. Harvie, Glenbow Museum is where intriguing stories from western Canada connect with extraordinary art and artifacts from around the world.

For more media information and interviews, please contact:

Karin Põldaas, Media & Communications Specialist, 403.268.4246

For media approved images and credit lines email kpoldaas@glenbow.org