The work of Kent Monkman, featuring Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, comes to Calgary

Calgary, AB (February 11, 2010) – Glenbow is pleased to present Calgary’s first-ever major exhibition of internationally acclaimed contemporary Canadian artist Kent Monkman, whose powerfully evocative works overturn constructed stereotypes in the history of art and pop culture.

Through oil paintings, sculptural pieces, films, video and photography, Monkman creates an “Old West” as a land of cross-dressing and role-swapping play between “cowboys and Indians” and at the centre of this work is Miss Chief Eagle Testickle. Miss Chief Eagle Testickle (punning “mischief” and “egotistical”) is Kent Monkman’s performance-art alter ego and she also appears in many of Monkman’s paintings and sculptural pieces.

In a mischievous and humourous manner, Kent Monkman’s art challenges the inherent stereotypes around sexuality and identity, the legacy of colonialism and narratives about Aboriginal culture in the history of art and popular culture. Behind Monkman’s art lies a deep knowledge of past images and iconography, both European and Aboriginal.

The Triumph of Mischief features Kent Monkman’s diverse art practice ranging from his large-scale paintings, The Trappers of Man and the Triumph of Mischief, the video, Séance, where Miss Chief Eagle Testickle conjures the spirits of three long dead painters, Eugène Delacroix, Paul Kane and George Catlin, and the magnificent Théâtre de Cristal, a 14 foot tall beaded chandelier projecting the videos, Group of Seven Inches and Robin’s Hood, onto a buffalo hide, on exhibit for the first time since Glenbow acquired the work in 2008.

Kent Monkman’s reputation has soared since The Triumph of Mischief began its national tour in 2007. Leading museums have acquired important examples of his work including the National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Glenbow Museum. Kent Monkman has been invited to participate in the 17th Biennale in Sydney in May 2010, Australia’s largest international visual arts event.

Kent Monkman was born in 1965 in Winnipeg and raised in a family mix of Swampy Cree and English-Irish descent. He is an accomplished and original painter, filmmaker and performance artist, based in Toronto, where he has lived for the past 20 years.

ABOUT GLENBOW MUSEUM
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.
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Media inquiries:
Megan Bailey
Communications Specialist
403.268.4259
mbailey@glenbow.org