

**PRESS RELEASE****ARTIST STAN DOUGLAS RECEIVES \$25,000 HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION AWARD**

VANCOUVER, January 19, 2007 – The recipient of the inaugural *Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Award* is Vancouver artist Stan Douglas. The \$25,000 prize for excellence in Canadian visual arts will be presented to Douglas today by Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President and Chair of the Board of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, at a reception at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

“We are absolutely delighted to be awarding our first annual prize for a Canadian mid-career artist to Stan Douglas, a groundbreaking artist with a remarkable international reputation,” said Mrs. Hnatyshyn. “We look forward to the outstanding work he will produce in the years ahead.”

The award winner was selected by a jury of six curators chosen by the Foundation for their knowledge of the visual arts across Canada: Scott Watson of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at the University of British Columbia; Catherine Crowston of the Art Gallery of Alberta; Darlene Coward Wight of the Winnipeg Art Gallery; Kitty Scott, formerly of the National Gallery of Canada and currently with the Serpentine Gallery in London, England; Paulette Gagnon of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal and Robin Metcalfe of Saint Mary's University Art Gallery in Halifax.

Born in 1960 in Vancouver, Stan Douglas is an internationally renowned photographer, filmmaker and multimedia installation artist whose work has been collected and exhibited worldwide since his first solo show in 1981. His latest work, *Klatsassin*, was screened as a World Premiere at the 2006 Vancouver International Film Festival.

In recommending Douglas for the Hnatyshyn Foundation Award, the jury described him as “a pioneering artist who has made an internationally recognized contribution to contemporary art.” Speaking on behalf of the jury, Scott Watson said, “Stan Douglas has produced a large body of compelling photographic works, often in concert with his ambitious film and video projects. These projects, for which he is most celebrated, are small cinematic masterpieces that revolutionize the cinematic experience. In his most complex recombinant films, episodes are continually reordered so that no two viewers will have the same experience. Douglas's projects engage us in specific historical moments or attach themselves to other films but always highlight larger questions about identity and power relations. He is an artist who is admired for his exquisite mastery of his craft as well as the intellectual and emotional depth of his work.”

The Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Award is the first of several grants for mid-career artistic achievement that the Foundation intends to create over the next two to three years. The Ottawa-based foundation also awards eight post-secondary scholarships of \$10,000 each year to the most promising young Canadians undertaking training programs in the performing arts.

Established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General, The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity dedicated to the support of excellence in the arts. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations and individuals. The Department of Canadian Heritage matches donations received by the Foundation up to a maximum of \$2.5 million.

Information about the Foundation and *The Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Award* is available on the Foundation's website www.rjhf.com

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