

**PRESS RELEASE****HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED DURING
VISUAL ARTS SUMMIT IN OTTAWA**

OTTAWA, October 31, 2007 – The 2007 *Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Awards* will be presented in Ottawa on November 26 in conjunction with a three-day Visual Arts Summit organized by the Canadian Museums Association and a consortium of partners from the visual arts sector. The Foundation's two awards, a \$25,000 prize for outstanding achievement by a Canadian artist and a \$15,000 award for curatorial excellence in contemporary art, will be presented by Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President and Chair of the Board of The Hnatyshyn Foundation at a ceremony and reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

“We are delighted to be able to hold our awards presentation at a time when hundreds of Canadian artists, gallery owners, museum curators and other visual arts professionals will be meeting in Ottawa for the Summit,” said Mrs. Hnatyshyn. “I can think of no better occasion to honour the 2007 recipients of our awards.”

“It is vital that the creativity of our artists and curators be recognized and appreciated more by Canadians; the Hnatyshyn Awards, together with others, are vital steps in celebrating our artistic achievements”, said John G. McAvity, Executive Director, Canadian Museums Association. “It is an honour to have these important awards presented by The Hnatyshyn Foundation at the largest gathering ever of the visual arts in Canada”.

The award recipients were selected by a jury of arts professionals from across Canada: Diana Nemiroff, Director of the Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa; Jon Tupper, Director of the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, Charlottetown; Christine Ross, Associate Professor of Art History at McGill University, Montreal; Robert Enright, Winnipeg arts journalist, and Liz Magor, Vancouver artist.

In addition to the *Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Awards*, the Ottawa-based foundation also awards eight post-secondary scholarships of \$10,000 each year to promising young Canadians undertaking training programs in the performing arts.

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations and individuals. The Department of Canadian Heritage has provided nearly \$2.4 million in matching funds to the Foundation.

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

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