



The Hnatyshyn Foundation

La Fondation Hnatyshyn

PRESS RELEASE

NEW \$25,000 AWARD FOR CANADIAN VISUAL ARTISTS

OTTAWA, May 8, 2006 – A new \$25,000 award for excellence in the visual arts was announced today in Ottawa by Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President and Chair of the Board of The Hnatyshyn Foundation. The prize will be awarded next December to a Canadian mid-career artist in recognition of an outstanding body of work and in anticipation of his or her future contribution to Canadian art.

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. It will be available to an artist in any of the visual arts disciplines including: painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, photography, three-dimensional installations and multi-media installations. Candidates for the award will be nominated by a jury of six regional curators chosen by the Foundation for their knowledge of the visual arts across Canada. The jury will then narrow down the list of nominees to 10 finalists and choose the winner.

“We want to recognize visual artists who are past the “emerging” stage and have created a significant body of work, but are not yet ready for life-time achievement awards,” said Mrs. Hnatyshyn. “Artists tend to get the most support at the beginning and at the end of their careers. Hopefully our award will draw attention to the many years of very important creative work in between.”

This is the second grant program created by the Ottawa-based foundation which this year is also awarding eight post-secondary scholarships of \$10,000 each to exceptionally talented young Canadians undertaking performing arts training programs in music, dance and theatre.

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a federally registered private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada’s twenty-fourth Governor General. Its goals are to help emerging and established artists in all disciplines with their schooling and training, and to promote to the Canadian public the importance of 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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