

**PRESS RELEASE****NEW \$15,000 AWARD FOR CANADIAN VISUAL ARTS CURATORS**

OTTAWA, May 8, 2007 – The Hnatyshyn Foundation is increasing its annual prize money for the visual arts to \$40,000 in the coming year with the creation of a new award of \$15,000 for Canadian arts curators. The first of its kind in Canada, *The Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Visual Art* will recognize the work of a mid-career curator who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the contemporary visual arts.

“Curators are an absolutely vital link between the artist and the public,” said Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C, President and Chair of the Hnatyshyn Foundation Board. “Their work is very demanding and it often gets overlooked because the attention is, quite rightfully, on the artists. We want to recognize the important role curators play in fostering and promoting Canadian art and in introducing Canadians to the best contemporary art from abroad.”

Candidates for the award will be nominated by a jury of prominent arts professionals chosen by the Foundation for their knowledge of the visual arts across Canada. Independent curators, as well as those working within an institutional context, will be eligible for the award.

The new prize follows on the heels of the \$25,000 *Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Award*, created last year to honour the work of an outstanding mid-career visual artist. The inaugural prize was presented to Vancouver artist Stan Douglas earlier this year.

The recipients of both visual arts awards for 2007 will be announced in November. The Ottawa-based foundation also awards 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 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 and its programs is available on the Foundation’s website www.rjhf.com

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Barbara Janes

Executive Director

The Hnatyshyn Foundation

(613) 233-0108

bdjanes@rjhf.com