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GRIZZLY! EXHIBITION OPENS IN BANFF
June 19 - October 11, 2010

Banff, Alberta – The **Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies** presents **Grizzly!** an exhibition that features images and stories from the Whyte Museum's collection of art, artifacts, and archival material related to grizzly bears. The exhibition also includes selected artworks from contemporary artists Dale Auger, Colleen Campbell, Maureen Enns, Dwayne Harty, Dan Hudson, and Cathryn and Fran Jenkins. These images, artifacts, and stories help to clarify the history of our relationship with these beautiful – and sometimes frightful – creatures. **Grizzly!** celebrates Parks Canada's 125th Anniversary [banff125.ca].

"For me, the most interesting thing about this exhibition is the relationship between humans and grizzly bears as it is reflected in the Whyte Museum's collection. Every aspect of the collection is represented in this show and the art, artifacts, and archival documents tell a graphic story of how our relationships with bears have changed," says Michale Lang, the Whyte Museum's chief curator and executive director.

Following the tracks of grizzly bears through their part of the Whyte Museum's collection illuminates a diverse range of relationships throughout time. The First Nations people, having populated this area for over ten thousand years, maintain a deep reverence for these great mammals. Explorers passing through the Rockies were some of the first to textually record their own encounters with bears. Artists also increasingly depicted the impressive beasts on paper or canvas.

In the 1880s, with the establishment of Canada's first National Park in Banff and the completion of the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway, tourists and hunters began to arrive here in increasing numbers. It became common to kill bears for museum exhibitions, trophies, and souvenirs, or to capture them for zoo exhibits and tourist entertainment. For a time in the mid-twentieth century, bears were seen as lovable natural clowns. Nevertheless, as exposure to bears increased, so did the stories of bears biting the hands that were trying to feed them.

Reports of bear attacks began to filter out, which ushered in the realization that bears really were wild animals. Despite the fact that human behaviour was significantly contributing to the so-called "bear problem," the solution was usually to call a Park Warden. Wardens, the very people charged with protecting wildlife, have all too often had to dispose of a "problem bear."

Many of us now have a different image of bears; one of reverence tinged with fear. Bears have become an icon of the Rocky Mountain wilderness. Sadly, past and present human behaviour continues to have an immense impact on the long-term survival of bears. Humans continually encroach upon bear habitat, which is disappearing at an alarming rate. We restrict their movement along the corridors that are essential to their existence. Many bears die as they try to negotiate their way across highways and railway tracks. It is essential that we try to further understand how we can share habitat with bears, rather than destroying them and the territory that supports them. Otherwise, we may only have images like these to remember them.

Grizzly! includes over 25 original artworks, including oils, acrylics, and sculpture, plus post-cards and photographs from the museum's Archives & Library. Opening on Sunday, June 20, 2010, during Back to Banff Day, the exhibit runs throughout the entire summer and into the fall, and will surely be a favourite for visitors to the Bow Valley.

FEATURED ARTIST BIOS

Dale Auger (1958 – 2008)

A Sakaw Cree from the Bigstone Cree Nation in northern Alberta, Dale Auger's vividly coloured acrylics captured the attention of many audiences. The subject of his paintings varied over the years including portraying Native history and the deeper, more spiritual levels of Native life, particularly the intricate links between Native spirituality and the natural laws of the land.

His acrylic and oil paintings are held in many notable public and private collections around the world. He is the author of an award winning children's book, "Mwakwa – Talks to the Loon", for which he was awarded the Aboriginal Children's Book of the Year in 2006 and the 2007 R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature.

Auger completed a Bachelor of Education, and a Master of Arts and PhD in Education at the University of Calgary. After completing his PhD in 1999, he became one of Canada's most acclaimed Native artists and storytellers. Also a renowned comedian and speaker, Auger was in high demand throughout Canada and the United States for his motivational talks about the difficulties many Native people face as they integrate into the Western world.

Colleen Campbell

Colleen Campbell grew up by the ocean on Vancouver Island and has lived, worked, and played in the Bow Valley since 1969. Travelling to far-away places stoked her curiosity about the relationships humans have with wild animals and wild places, especially historic. Since 1990 she has worked locally as a wildlife researcher, an activity that has grounded her sense of place and solidified her respect for nature and natural processes. Understanding her research subjects includes understanding the mythologies that surround them.

Her postcard images are a diversion from other studio work and intended to record feelings and ideas as much as rational experience.

Maureen Enns

I was terrified of bears until I read about a black bear named Kootenay in the *Crag and Canyon* in columns written by Banff Senior Wildlife Warden, Rick Kunelius. Kootenay was described as a fun-loving bear that was as curious about the antics of the people of Banff as they were of him. Although the town site was a part of his home range, he was never a threat to anyone. I gained the support of Banff National Park and was able to travel the back-country of the Park to study the grizzlies from an artist's perspective. On one occasion when riding my saddle horse, Spud, out of the Park, he calmly watched a mother griz and her cub graze their way closer. I sat transfixed on my horse. It was a magic moment and fear seemed to vanish.

I gained an international reputation through my artwork on human co-existence with grizzly bears in Kamchatka, Russia 1994 - 2003. We followed certain protocol and discovered that we could live harmoniously in the midst of over 100 grizzlies. But this was a remote area and the bears knew what to expect from us. Could this happen with more people and bears with less to eat, as is the case in our Rockies?

During the summer of 2009, I was introduced to the grizzlies at Mt. Assiniboine that were sharing the high country with two to three thousand visitors a season. A mother grizzly with three cubs was seen regularly by the hikers who passed through the area. Two sub-adult siblings would come and go as well. Joe Bucher worked at Assiniboine Lodge and managed the campground. He kept in touch with the campers and helped to quell their fears of encountering the bears. Lodge staff did the same for the guests. Bears and humans were able to co-exist quietly and share the environment without fear. I dedicate this series of drawings to those grizzlies that have been respected and left unmanaged to walk peacefully along the same trails as the hikers.

Dwayne Harty

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Dwayne Harty's interest in wildlife art began at the age of three, when he first began to draw. His first formal wildlife art training was under artist Clarence Tillenius at the Okanagan Game Farm in Penticton, British Columbia. He is co-founder of Wildlife Art International's "Animal Art in the Park," Canada's premier annual wildlife art exhibition in Algonquin Park.

His important commissions have included an International UNICEF greeting card (1996), Wildlife Habitat Canada's federal duck stamp (1996), and the 1996 Royal Canadian Mint Platinum four coin set. In addition to wildlife subjects, Dwayne Harty paints landscapes and has executed large scale murals and dioramas for Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum, Regina's Royal Saskatchewan Museum, the Wye Marsh Conservation Centre

in Midland, Ontario, and the Algonquin Park Visitor Centre. He is a member of the Society of Animal Artists, from whom he received the Award of Excellence at the 1993 annual exhibition and the Leonard J. Meiselman Award in 1995.

Dan Hudson

Dan Hudson is an artist and a photo journalist. He received his BFA from York University, studied anthropology at the University of California, San Diego, and did a studio residency at The Banff Centre. Hudson has won several scholarships and awards for his art practice and has been involved in over 100 national and international exhibitions. As a photo journalist, Dan Hudson specializes in adventure and travel. He has more than 60 cover shots to his credit as well as thousands of images published internationally. His work is included in a number of public and private collections.

Fran Jenkins

Artist and prospector, Fran Jenkins has turned her deep love for stone and wildlife into more than 30 years of creating wildlife out of rugged pieces of rock. Her works exhibit an instinctive ability to capture the strength and fluidity of movement that is the very essence of the animal's being. She matches the rhythm of the stone with the movement of the subject to create natural proportion and balance.

Her work has influenced many Canadian sculptors. One of her ongoing pleasures is to observe the development of her daughter Cathryn's talent and distinctive style. Since the early 90's, mother and daughter have shared several exhibitions in Western Canada and United States.

Cathryn Jenkins

Cathryn Jenkins, daughter of prominent sculptor, Fran Jenkins, spent many hours in her mother's studio learning about the qualities of different stones as well as the relationship between artist and medium, while gaining an understanding of line, form, and the joy of sculpture. Her own stylized representational form, influenced not only by her mother but also Inuit and acclaimed American sculptors, combines the pleasure of real touch and strong line. The skillful union of these key elements, consistently present in Jenkins' work, allows the creation of unmatched and timeless works of art.

The stone selected for her work is hand quarried in British Columbia. These marbles, alabasters, serpentines, and soapstones have individual qualities unveiled by hammer and chisel, diamond blades, rasps, files and the artist's eye to reveal flowing agility, powerful line, and lustrous natural surface. Her work holds a place of pride among many corporate and private collections.

EXHIBITION RELATED EVENTS

Opening Reception

June 20, noon to 4 PM, FREE

Our annual celebration, **Back to Banff Day**, includes the opening of both *Grizzly!* and *Bears, Bears, Bears*, plus a number of other events. Catch up with old friends over tea and light refreshments. Enjoy heritage games, activities. View and purchase affordable original artworks at the **Art on the Line Show and Sale** on the riverside lawn.

Bears, Bears, Bears

June 19 – September 14, 2010

Opening Reception, June 20, noon to 4 PM

Bears, both black and grizzly, are some of the most sought-after wildlife for visitors to the Canadian Rockies. Many talented artists are also inspired by them, and have captured the essence of these massive creatures which can be simultaneously amusing, fascinating, and terrifying. This Art Show and Sale provides some of this area's most talented wildlife artists with an opportunity to share their unique personal depictions of our bruin friends in a variety of media including: painting, photography, sculpture, and mixed media pieces. Many different artistic approaches and interpretations of bears are reflected, in a broad range of work appealing to all museum visitors

Andy Russell's *Grizzly Country*

Opens June 20

Archives & Library Reference Room and Lobby

The name Andy Russell (1915 – 2005) is synonymous with conservation. He was a noted naturalist, wildlife photographer, writer, and outspoken advocate of wilderness and environmental management. This featured display showcases the Andy Russell fonds, including photographs and manuscripts, and continuous screenings of the film ***Andy Russell's Grizzly Country with host Ian Tyson***. A DVD of this film is available for sale in the Museum Shop.

Art Gallery Tour – Grizzly in Art and Life

Daily, June 21 through September 6

1:30 PM, 40 minutes, included with Museum admission, FREE for Museum members

Experience the majestic grizzly as depicted in the works of contemporary artists Dale Auger, Maureen Enns, Dwayne Harty, Dan Hudson, Cathryn and Fran Jenkins. View art, artifacts, and archival material from the Whyte Museum's collection as you hear poignant, humorous, and sometimes frightening stories of human/bear interaction.

Bears: Tracks Through Time Book Launch, Wine & Cheese Reception

June 24, 7 PM, \$2 non-members, FREE for Museum members

Join us for the launch of ***Bears: Tracks Through Time***, the first book in a collaboration with Rocky Mountain Books, which features the Museum's collection. The book is for sale in the Whyte Museum Shop.

Banff Culture Weekend – Grizzly Day

August 7, 1 to 4 PM, included with Museum admission

Meet Maureen Enns, one of the artists featured in our ***Grizzly!*** exhibition. Hear the stories behind her inspiring works of art. Visit with a Park Warden and share their experiences working with grizzly bears in the wild. **Grizzly Day** is part of the 8th annual *Banff Culture Weekend* celebrations.

Alberta Artist Meet and Greet

Saturday, September 18, 1 – 4 PM, FREE

In celebration of Alberta Arts Days, the Whyte Museum will hold an Artist Meet and Greet afternoon. Dwayne Harty, Colleen Campbell and other artists highlighted in the ***Grizzly!*** exhibition will talk about their work in an informal manner. The event also features the opening of the art show and sale, ***Abundant Alberta***. Meet and chat with prominent landscape artists showcased in this exciting art show and sale.

Thursday Night @ the Whyte

Cathryn and Fran Jenkins: Two Generations Carved in Stone

September 23, 7 PM, \$2 non-members, FREE for Museum members

Here's a unique opportunity to meet mother and daughter team, Fran and Cathryn Jenkins. These renowned sculptors will discuss the process of bringing grizzly bears to life in stone. Hear stories of their encounters with bears in life and art.

About the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies welcomes those who are drawn to the power and inspiration of these mountains. We are the gateway for experiencing and enjoying its art, culture and history in order to inspire and cultivate knowledge and the exchange of ideas. Visitors from near and far experience the Museum's galleries, programs, archives and library, heritage homes, museum shop, guided walks, tours and special events.

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For more information about the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, contact:

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