

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hockey Culture Comes to the Esplanade in Two New Art Gallery Exhibitions

MEDICINE HAT, AB – The Esplanade Art Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of two new exhibitions on display until Dec. 13.

Once Upon a Pond...

The tradition of pond hockey runs deep in almost every community in Canada. ***Once Upon a Pond...*** explores this heritage in the era of global warming, featuring new work by Marianne Corless (Sundre, Alberta), Christian Nicolay (Vancouver, British Columbia) and Collin Zipp (Winnipeg, Manitoba), as well as works contributed by the local Mad Hatters painting group, photographs from the Esplanade Archives, and paintings by Alberta artists Bill Brownridge, Irene McCaugherty and Peter Shostak.

Guest curator Linda Sawchyn explains: “Regardless of who is to blame or why this is happening, outdoor ponds and urban rinks are both under threat of disappearing in a climate of global warming. Does this matter? 50 or 100 years from now what might the game of pond hockey look like and how will pond hockey of the late 20th/early 21st century be remembered? The artists were asked to produce new work in response to the theme of pond hockey in the age of global warming. The results are works that are thoughtful and entertaining, engaging the imagination of the viewer and weaving memories of the past with the unknowns of the future.”

Saul Miller: Love of the Game

Vancouver-based artist, sport psychologist and author Saul Miller conjures humorous, bold and energetic moments from the world of sports, in an irreverent exhibition of paintings drawn from the last decade of his work. With a painting style rooted in folk traditions (and sometimes whimsically framed with hockey sticks), Miller celebrates ‘the game’ while lovingly skewering the fervour of fans and the glorification of sports heroes alike. Several of Saul Miller’s paintings are currently touring with the Canadian Museum of Civilization exhibition ***Rocket Richard: The Legend The Legacy***, which will be on display in the Esplanade Heritage Gallery Nov. 1, 2009 – Jan. 24, 2010.

Saul Miller is a graduate of McGill University and Dalhousie University with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of London, England. He studied art at the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design. As a sport psychologist, Miller’s clients have included major corporations as well as the Vancouver Canucks, New York Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers, Rams and Kings, PGA golfers, Olympians and...the Medicine Hat Tigers! He recently published ***Why Teams Win***, his seventh book. His paintings have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Kamloops and California over the last decade.

Once Upon a Pond... and ***Love of the Game*** are on display in the Esplanade Art Gallery until December 13, 2009. The Opening Reception is **Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m.** in the Gallery Foyer. The artists will be present. There is no charge to attend the reception and everyone is welcome.

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For further information, interviews or images, please contact:

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