

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Artists at Esplanade Art Gallery for Closing Celebration of Quilt Exhibitions

MEDICINE HAT, AB – The Esplanade Art Gallery is pleased to announce the closing celebration for the quilt exhibitions currently on display in the gallery. Visiting artist Judith Tinkl will join Medicine Hat quilt artist Fran Lauzon to meet visitors at a reception on Sunday February 5 at 1 PM, followed by First Discoveries, a family art activity, at 2pm. Free.

Judith Tinkl: Soft Geometry

Ontario artist Judith Tinkl brings four decades of skill, experience and exploration to her textile art works, which reveal the depth and breadth of her research and creativity in their elaborate patterning, sophisticated use of geometry, and wealth of detail. Judith Tinkl's work is inspired by natural structures and patterns, by geometry, by Islamic patterning, the quilts of African-Americans, and modern artists who explore colour mixing and composition. Retired from the faculty of the Ontario College of Art + Design, Tinkl's work was selected for the "Unity and Diversity" exhibition at the Cheongju International Craft Biennale in Korea in 2009, and has been presented in Canada, Japan, Australia, France, Britain and the United States. A past Chair of the Ontario Craft Council, she has received the Ontario Premier's Award and the Joan Chalmers Award for Quiltmaking.

Image above: Judith Tinkl, **Wink**, 2004, 56" x 44", Textile hanging/ quilt, machine pieced, hand quilted.



Spotlight on the Quilts of Fran Lauzon

Fran Lauzon is a Medicine Hat painter and award-winning fibre artist who has been involved in the visual arts for over 30 years. Fran's quilts are extraordinary in the complexity of their composition, brilliant use of colour and attention to detail: they are powerful when viewed from a distance and reveal subtle intricacies when examined closely. Fran Lauzon has exhibited her textile art in Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Seattle, Washington, and has won First Prize and Best of Show awards in several Canadian Quilter's Association National Juried Exhibitions and from the Association of Pacific Northwest Quilters.

Image above: Fran Lauzon, **Snow Shadows**, 2009, 53.5" x 66", Machine pieced, machine quilted.



Out of the Vaults: Medicine Hat's Heritage Quilts

These remarkable quilts are safeguarded for posterity in the Esplanade Museum Collection. Many were used and loved here in Medicine Hat, from as early as 1910 onwards, while others made their way here over time. The provenance of the quilts is sparse but intriguing - we know for instance that one is the tulip design quilt of Miss Jean McGregor, Medicine Hat's first woman RCMP dispatcher, and another patchwork quilt, with WW I and other commemorative badges, may have originated in Huron County, Ontario and was finished in Medicine Hat. This is a rare opportunity to see unique

pieces of our heritage brought to life by the skill, creativity and countless hours of dedication of their makers.
Image above courtesy of the Esplanade Museum, detail of quilt owned by Miss Jean McGregor, hand quilted, circa 1855, accession #55.15



And at 2pm, Families can enjoy, at no cost : a fun filled activity for parents and children in the Discovery Centre. They will explore quilt motifs and geometry in art.

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For further information, interviews or images, please contact:

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