

News release

HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL
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'MASS'ive Instruments Highlight Alberta Arts Days Activities in Medicine Hat

Medicine Hat, AB... As one of five flagship celebration sites selected by the Government of Alberta to celebrate Alberta Arts Days this September, the Esplanade is proud to unveil its Alberta Arts Days line-up for 2009. Within the theme "Inspire and Create" – the program will see Albertans from all walks of life participate in and witness the creation of original art, drama, music, song and dance.

"Between the giant musical instruments in the lobby and the art and history on the walls and corridors of the Esplanade, we will be creating a conduit of creative energy that will make this Arts Days celebration one to write about," says Carol Beatty, Manager of Cultural Development for the City of Medicine Hat.

Activities are planned for Friday, September 18, Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20, highlighted by **M.A.S.S.** instruments inside the Esplanade on September 19. There will be a Main Lobby performance in the evening that combines the instruments of the **M.A.S.S. Ensemble** with the talents of **Paramedic** and numerous other Alberta musicians.

"Medicine Hat is celebrating Alberta Arts Days in a very big way," says Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. "The M.A.S.S. instruments are the perfect means to inspire people of all ages with the thrill of artistic creation. The Esplanade will truly be a place of wonder during Alberta Arts Days."

M.A.S.S. (Music, Architecture, Sonic, Sculpture) instruments are giant musical sculptures with traditional instrumentation that create an unforgettable multi-sensory theatrical experience. The Earth Harp, for instance, is the world's longest stringed instrument and often encompasses the audience at performances, transferring them inside the instrument for a truly interactive experience. Visitors will be invited to play the giant strings of the Earth Harp or pound the drums of the swinging Drum Orb.

The annual Artisan Fair, coordinated by the City Centre Development Agency, will also take place at the Esplanade during the day on Saturday, September 19. As well, there will be a guided tour through the Esplanade Art Gallery by one of the artists whose work is currently on display, as well as children's workshops and other activities.

With a focus on innovation in arts and culture, past and present, the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre will be a cultural hub for Southern Alberta during Alberta Arts Days.

Alberta Arts Days, which runs from September 18-20, is all about discovering, experiencing and celebrating our unique blend of peoples and passions, and the importance of arts and culture to a healthy and vibrant Alberta. To learn more, visit AlbertaArtsDays.ca

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Backgrounder: Alberta Arts Days in Medicine Hat – Full Schedule of Events

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Backgrounder

September 1, 2009

Alberta Arts Days in Medicine Hat – Full Schedule of Events

Friday, September 18, 2009

Time	Event	Location	Description
7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Art and Library Display	Vera Bracken Library Medicine Hat College 299 College Drive SE	The Vera Bracken Library, Medicine Hat College is home to a wonderful collection of artwork by a variety of artists. Featured in the Vera Bracken Library from September 18-20 will be a display of books and audiovisual materials focusing on the arts in Alberta.
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Jordan Broadworth: Turn	Esplanade Art Gallery 401 First Street SE	Ontario-born and Brooklyn-based artist Jordan Broadworth's recent abstract paintings are layered and complex and add a colorful backdrop to Alberta Arts Days in <i>Turn</i> , the latest exhibition in the Esplanade Art Gallery.
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	This is for the birds.	Esplanade Art Gallery 401 First Street SE	New paintings by Medicine Hat's Maureen Newton depict life's serious – and not so serious – situations, with rich coloration and bold compositions of man, woman, beast and bird.
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Playful Revelations	Esplanade Heritage Gallery 401 First Street SE	Playful Revelations exhibits a century of classic toys, some unique to Medicine Hat, exploring the profound effect they had on shaping adult perceptions and behaviors.
Noon – 5 p.m.	Rotary Music Festival Info Booth	Esplanade Main Lobby 401 First Street SE	Drop by the Medicine Hat Rotary Music Festival information table for details about the festival and how you might become involved! The MUSIC Festival is March 8 – 21, 2010 and the BAND Festival is March 25-27, 2010.
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Summer Arts Encore	Esplanade Studio Theatre 401 First Street SE	Students from the Esplanade's Summer Art Camp return to showcase their artwork and dramatic performances as part of AB Arts Day
7 – 10 p.m.	pARTy on 2 nd	Framing & Art Studio 628 2 nd Street SE Inspire Studio & Gallery 659 2 nd Street SE Sandfly Gallery & Gifts 519 2 nd Street SE	You're invited to celebrate Alberta Arts Days Friday, September 18 from 7 to 10 p.m. at a "pARTy on 2 nd " - a roving reception to celebrate our downtown art scene! pARTy on 2 nd is brought to you by the City Centre Development Agency, the Framing & Art Centre, Inspire Studio & Gallery and Sandfly Gallery & Gifts. There will be entertainment at each location by local musicians along with food and refreshments.
8 p.m.	Comedian Gerry Dee	Esplanade Main Theatre 401 First Street SE	Gerry recently won Best Comic in Canada at the 2008 Canadian Comedy Awards. You can also watch Gerry weekly on "The Score" with his very humorous segment called "Gerry Dee-Sports Reporter". This is a ticketed event.

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Time	Event	Location	Description
All Day	Free Transit		The City of Medicine Hat will provide free transit services from all locations Saturday, September 19.
All Day	Free Parking at Esplanade	Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre 401 First Street SE	The Surface Lot and Underground Parkade will be free all day on Saturday, September 19.
9 a.m. – Noon	Jim Marshall Art Walk	Starting at City Hall 580 First Street SE	Jim Marshall has been an artist all his life, using pen and ink, pottery, small sculptures, and more. But, in 1983, he made his first sculptured brick mural and the rest is history... Over the last 26 years, Jim Marshall has installed his brick murals all across Canada and overseas. Take a walking tour, led by Jim Marshall himself, to see some of his artwork right here in Medicine Hat.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Art and Library Display	Vera Bracken Library Medicine Hat College 299 College Drive SE	The Vera Bracken Library, Medicine Hat College is home to a wonderful collection of artwork by a variety of artists. Featured in the Vera Bracken Library from September 18-20 will be a display of books and audiovisual materials focusing on the arts in Alberta.
10 a.m.	Heritage Church Walking Tour – North Side	Starting at St. Joseph's Home 156 3 rd Street NE	The Heritage Church Walking Tour – North Side – begins at St. Joseph's Home with a guided talk and tour of the Stations of the Cross and the St. Joseph's Chapel, and continues to St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church – a National Historic Site.
10 a.m. – Noon	St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church - Tour of National Historic Site	St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church 238 2 nd Avenue NE	Enjoy a tour of St. Patrick's Church – a National Historic Site – and an arts display by resident priest, Reverend Father Gilles Leblanc. Refreshments will be served in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome!
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Free Museum Day at the Historic Clay District	Medalta Potteries National Historic Site 713 Medalta Avenue SE	On Saturday, September 19, the Historic Clay District will be granting free museum entry to the public. With new museum galleries opening in June of this year, it is a great opportunity for members of the community to see them. The Historic Clay District's Working Pottery will also be in operation that day, with demonstrations on Medalta's original pottery machinery.
Noon – 3:30 p.m.	"Hands On" at St. John's!	St. John's Presbyterian Church 504 2 nd Street SE	This is your chance to try your hand at creating something artsy! No experience necessary – only the desire to try! Materials will be on hand. Spend about 20 minutes doing a "Hands On" Art Experience with local artist Evelyn Kleis in the gym. Sessions begin at Noon and run every half hour. Last session begins at 3 p.m. Sessions will be limited to 12 participants each. Guided tours of the Church are also offered throughout the afternoon.
Noon – 4 p.m.	Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church Open House	Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church 476 4 th Street SE	Arts and Crafts display and demonstrations by Fifth Avenue Memorial folks. Visitors may walk the labyrinth, enjoy the pesticide-free gardens and lawns, tour the historical building and find handcrafted treasures! There will also be a hymn sing with meditative music. Make a dove and say a prayer for peace.
Noon – 4 p.m.	Mask Making/Decorating Workshop	Esplanade Discovery Centre 401 First Street SE	Children may drop in and decorate their very own mask to take home! (Children must be accompanied by an adult.) Art Instructors will lead mask-making demonstrations periodically throughout the day.
Noon – 5 p.m.	Artisans Fair	Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre 401 First Street SE	Artists from Medicine Hat and surrounding region converge for one large showcase and sale celebrating our local talent in a variety of media, including craft, paint, print, wood, photography, sculpture, fibre art, ceramic and more.

Noon – 5 p.m.	TREX Video Screening	Esplanade Studio Theatre 401 First Street SE	The Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program (TREX) provides every Albertan with the opportunity to enjoy visual art exhibitions in their community. The first in a new series of TREX documentaries, this 9-minute video presents a profile of Calgary artist Simon Wroot, his studio practice and connection to the community through his exhibition Remnants of Community . The video captures Simon's fine skills as he works with various metals to create unique, one-of-a-kind miniature portraits of rural Alberta churches. The video will be shown at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., and 4:45 p.m.
Noon – 5 p.m.	M.A.S.S. Instruments	Esplanade Main Floor Lobby 401 First Street SE	Musicians from the band Paramedic will combine forces with musicians from across the street, the region and the province for a day of improvisational music played on enormous M.A.S.S. Instruments in the Esplanade lobby. M.A.S.S. instruments are architectural marvels that give patrons the feeling of being enveloped by the instrument, truly being a part of the music itself. They are hung from the ceiling, strung across the room... This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – you might even get to try to play them yourself! Improv performances will take place periodically throughout the afternoon at 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30 p.m.
Noon – 5 p.m.	Jordan Broadworth: Turn	Esplanade Art Gallery 401 First Street SE	Free Admission Saturday Ontario-born and Brooklyn-based artist Jordan Broadworth's recent abstract paintings are layered and complex and add a colorful backdrop to Alberta Arts Days in Turn , the latest exhibition in the Esplanade Art Gallery.
Noon – 5 p.m.	This is for the birds.	Esplanade Art Gallery 401 First Street SE	Free Admission Saturday New paintings by Medicine Hat's Maureen Newton depict life's serious – and not so serious – situations, with rich coloration and bold compositions of man, woman, beast and bird.
Noon – 5 p.m.	Playful Revelations	Esplanade Heritage Gallery 401 First Street SE	Free Admission Saturday Playful Revelations exhibits a century of classic toys, some unique to Medicine Hat, exploring the profound effect they had on shaping adult perceptions and behaviors.
1 p.m.	Doug Haslam's Cabinet of Curiosities	Esplanade Gallery Foyer 401 First Street SE	Artist Doug Haslam's will present his work Cabinet of Curiosities at 1 p.m. and at 3:30 p.m. Haslam's Cabinet of Curiosities was inspired by aspects of To Pao Ko, 17 th century Chinese curio cabinets, and Wunderkammer, curiosity rooms found in Renaissance Europe.
1 p.m.	Heritage Church Walking Tour – South Side	Starting at St. John's Presbyterian Church 504 2 nd Street SE	The Heritage Church Walking Tour – South Side – begins at St. John's Presbyterian Church, and continues to St. Barnabas Anglican Church and the Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church.
2 p.m.	Guest Artist Tour	Esplanade Art Gallery	Medicine Hat artist Maureen Newton will lead a tour through her exhibition This is for the birds .
2 – 4 p.m.	St. Barnabas Church Tour and Art Display	St. Barnabas Anglican Church 635 4 th Street SE	Take a tour of the Church displaying the large collection of stained glass and woodcarvings from 1912 onwards, some by local stonemasons, others from Montreal and the old firms of Canada. There will be printed material to guide people from piece to piece. Local Church members will display artwork and crafts.
3 p.m.	Sid Marty Book Reading	Medicine Hat Public Library 414 First Street SE	Alberta poet and author Sid Marty reads from his recent book, <u>The Black Grizzly of Whiskey Creek</u> , a recounting of a series of bear attacks in the Banff area in 1980. He examines the situation of bear versus man and the changing habitat which may spur these incidents. Sid Marty was awarded the Grant MacEwan Literary Arts Award on 2008's Alberta Arts Day. His reading is sponsored by the Canada Council of the Arts and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. The reading will be followed by book sales and signings and a reception.

3:30 p.m.	Doug Haslam's Cabinet of Curiosities	Esplanade Gallery Foyer 401 First Street SE	Artist Doug Haslam's will present his work <i>Cabinet of Curiosities</i> at 1 p.m. and at 3:30 p.m. Haslam's <i>Cabinet of Curiosities</i> was inspired by aspects of To Pao Ko, 17 th century Chinese curio cabinets, and Wunderkammer, curiosity rooms found in Renaissance Europe.
5:30 – 8 p.m.	Robert Harrison Talk	Historic Clay District Medalta Potteries National Historic Site 713 Medalta Avenue SE	At 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, artist Robert Harrison will be speaking at the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site. Harrison was the one behind the recognizable "Medaltarch" sculpture in front of Medalta Potteries. He is a world-renowned ceramic artist. The talk is open to the public and is free of charge.
8 p.m.	M.A.S.S. Ensemble / Paramedic Concert	Esplanade Main Lobby 401 First Street SE	PARAMEDIC will give a full performance using the M.A.S.S. instruments in the lobby. This full-length performance is free to everyone.

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Time	Event	Location	Description
9 a.m. – Noon	Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church Open House and Service	Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church 476 4 th Street SE	Walk the labyrinth, view the art work, then come to the Sanctuary just before 10 a.m. to enjoy the service with us. Refreshments afterward in the gym.
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Morning Worship: "Growing from the Roots"	St. John's Presbyterian Church 504 2 nd Street SE	Local artist Evelyn Kleis will create a visual expression in response to the Word, spoken and sung. Come and be inspired with us! Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will follow.
Noon – 5 p.m.	Jordan Broadworth: Turn	Esplanade Art Gallery 401 First Street SE	Ontario-born and Brooklyn-based artist Jordan Broadworth's recent abstract paintings are layered and complex and add a colorful backdrop to Alberta Arts Days in <i>Turn</i> , the latest exhibition in the Esplanade Art Gallery.
Noon – 5 p.m.	This is for the birds.	Esplanade Art Gallery 401 First Street SE	New paintings by Medicine Hat's Maureen Newton depict life's serious – and not so serious – situations, with rich coloration and bold compositions of man, woman, beast and bird.
Noon – 5 p.m.	Playful Revelations	Esplanade Heritage Gallery 401 First Street SE	<i>Playful Revelations</i> exhibits a century of classic toys, some unique to Medicine Hat, exploring the profound effect they had on shaping adult perceptions and behaviors.
1:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Art and Library Display	Vera Bracken Library Medicine Hat College 299 College Drive SE	The Vera Bracken Library, Medicine Hat College is home to a wonderful collection of artwork by a variety of artists. Featured in the Vera Bracken Library from September 18-20 will be a display of books and audiovisual materials focusing on the arts in Alberta.
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	"The Book Arts" Exhibition Launch	Medicine Hat Public Library Currie Room 414 - 1 St. SE Medicine Hat	Join us for the exhibition launch and reception for The Book Arts exhibition. The Book Arts is a travelling exhibition focused on the art of the book including book binding, fine press, paper making, illustration and artists' books. It features 25 examples of current work by 15 western Canadian artists, many of whom are members of the Calgary and Edmonton chapters of the Canadian Book Binders and Book Artists Guild (CABBAG). Some artists may be in attendance. The launch will be followed by a reception. This is the first stop for this exhibition of a two year tour of Alberta schools, libraries and other venues as part of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition (Trex) Program.
2 – 5 p.m.	Open House	Cultural Centre Gallery Medicine Hat College Campus 299 College Drive SE	Open House featuring the art works of Medicine Hat artist Fran Lauzon (paintings, pastels, quilts, soapstone, and more) Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome and there is plenty of parking!
2 – 5 p.m.	Rotary Music Festival Info Booth	Cultural Centre 299 College Drive SE	Drop by the Medicine Hat Rotary Music Festival information table for details about the festival and how you might become involved! The MUSIC Festival is March 8 – 21, 2010 and the BAND Festival is March 25-

27, 2010.

7:30 p.m.

Bridges of Hope
presents
Noumoufassa

Esplanade Main
Theatre
401 First Street SE

Bridges of Hope presents the exploding cultural music of Noumoufassa, members of international touring group Manding Jata. This ticketed event features authentic West African music and dance from the home of the fabled city Timbuktu.

Around the Region

THE ALBERTA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS TRAVELLING EXHIBITION PROGRAM

TRES REGION 4 (SOUTHEAST) COMMUNITY EVENTS CELEBRATING ALBERTA ARTS DAYS 2009

On behalf of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, TRES Region 4 (Southeast) is pleased to present the following programs and events in celebration of Alberta Arts Days. Program times and additional listings will be announced as they are confirmed. Exhibitions are on display throughout September except as noted.

<i>EXHIBITION</i>	<i>VENUE CONTACT INFO</i>	<i>COMMUNITY</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>DATES</i>
Remnants of Community: Simon Wroot	Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre Studio Theatre Dean Reeves 403.502.8586	Medicine Hat	Remnants of Community video	Sept. 19 hourly, 1 pm – 4 pm
The Cone Box Show	Hanna Municipal Library Mary McKay 403.854.3865	Hanna	Exhibition	Sept. 2-28
Darkfire	Stettler Public Library Crystal Friars 403.742.2292	Stettler	Exhibition AFA Reception	Sept. 1-28 Sept 10, 5-7 pm
The Book Arts	Medicine Hat Public Library Hilary Munro 403.502.8533	Medicine Hat	Exhibition Artist Reception	Sept. 18-28 Sept. 20 2 – 3:30 pm
Remnants of Community: Simon Wroot	Foremost Municipal Library Joanne Harty 403.867.3855	Foremost	Exhibition Remnants of Community Video	Sept. 1 - 26
Small Beginnings	Brooks City Hall Amanda Peterson 403.362.3333 County of Newell Layne Johnson 403.362.3266	Brooks Brooks	Exhibition Launch Exhibition Exhibition	Sept. 1 6:00-8:00 pm Sept. 1-15 Sept. 15-28
Generation Gap	Brooks Public Library Cathryn Krochak 403.362.8111	Brooks	Exhibition	Sept. 1-28
The Home Show	St. Michael's Elementary School Lenore Kowalchuk 403.527.7242	Medicine Hat	Exhibition	Sept. 1-28
The Fantastical World of Jeff de Boer	Vauxhall Public Library Carol Bell 403.654.2370	Vauxhall	Exhibition	Sept. 1-28
The Essence of Landscape	Medicine Hat College Brooks Campus Reg Radke 403.362.1684	Brooks	Exhibition	Sept. 1-28
Catherine Hamel: displace, graft, retrace	Medicine Hat College Courtyard Gallery Michael McClary 403.529.3811	Medicine Hat	Exhibition	Sept. 1-28
The Greying Nation	Chinook Regional Hospital Lynn Hunter-Johnson 403.388.6111	Lethbridge	Exhibition	Aug.12-Sept15

The Greying Nation	Taber Public Library Debbie Haigh 403.223.4343	Taber	Exhibition	Sept.16-Oct 1
Doug Haslam's Cabinet of Curiosities	Jenny Emery Elementary School Audrey Reti 403.345.2403	Coaldale	Artist Visit Presentation	Sept. 15
Doug Haslam's Cabinet of Curiosities	Morrin School Terri-Lynn Dodd 403.772.3838	Morrin	Artist Visit Presentation	Sept. 16
Doug Haslam's Cabinet of Curiosities	Drumheller Public Library Linde turner 403.823.3651	Drumheller	Artist Visit Presentations	Sept. 17 10:30-11:30am 1:00-2 :00 pm
Doug Haslam's Cabinet of Curiosities	Esplanade – Gallery Foyer Dean Reeves 403.502.8586	Medicine Hat	Artist Visit Presentation	Sept. 19 1:30 pm 3:30 pm

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