

# Glenbow Museum

WHERE THE WORLD MEETS THE WEST

## Media Release

### **Quilt of Belonging Reflects Canada's Diversity**

(Thursday, July 5, 2007) Calgary, AB – Glenbow Museum is pleased to welcome visitors to our new feature exhibition, **Belonging: A Place for Everyone**. The exhibition celebrates Canada's multiculturalism with five exhibits showcasing our country's rich cultural diversity.

Anchoring the exhibition, **Quilt of Belonging** stretches 36-metres in length (120 ft.). This monumental artwork, Canada's most comprehensive textile art project, is the work of volunteers from Victoria to Newfoundland to the Arctic Circle. From across Canada, participants were invited to contribute their talents and ideas, to work on blocks that reflected their own cultural backgrounds. Six years in the making, the astonishing range of materials, from sealskin to African mud-cloth, from embroidered silk to gossamer wings of butterflies connects the threads of our past to the limitless possibilities of the future. This tapestry features 263 blocks representing every immigrant culture and First Peoples group in Canada. The quilt highlights the dream of making a place for all people in Canada.

"Quilt of Belonging is something you really have to see in person to understand its full impact. It's dazzling colours, its spectacular needlework and patterns are definitely a moving sight," says Adrienne Horne, Glenbow's project manager for feature exhibitions. "People get goose bumps when they see it."

Visual artist Esther Bryan initiated and coordinated this national, community art project. In the words of Bryan, "Our vision was to create a collaborative work of art that will recognize Canada's and the world's diversity, celebrate our common humanity and promote harmony and compassion among people."

**A Joyful Harvest**, developed by the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta, shares the varied stories of southern Alberta's Jewish community and celebrates over 100 years of the Jewish experience in this region. Come learn about Calgary's first permanent Rabbi, Simon Smolensky, the man behind Calgary's world famous white cowboy hat, Morris Schumiatcher (Smith), Martha Cohen and "Mr. Hospitality" Leo Sheftel. **A Joyful Harvest** features 100 text and photograph panels honouring the people, places and organizations that have defined the local Jewish community. A selection of Glenbow artifacts collected from Alberta's Jewish community complements this exhibit.

**Celebrating Prairie Cultures** is Glenbow's own exhibit. It shares the stories of First Nations and the other world cultures that have made their home on the Canadian prairies. Many traditional outfits are on display including a Gujarati style sari, a Nakoda quilled hide suit, a Cheung Sam style dress and a boy's Greek soldier costume.

Detailed quilts and textiles adorn the walls, including an intricately hand-made sampler. Made in 1925 in Denmark by Margrethe Reinholdt, the artwork was her final thesis and took six years to complete. Margarethe brought the sampler with her when she and her husband moved to Calgary in about 1930.

**ImaginASIAN Photo Exhibition: Convergence and Disturbance** is a touring photo exhibit by Calgaryan photographer Kristen Wagner which profiles people within the Asian-Canadian community who have shaped our city, province and country. The exhibit of contemporary photographs and stories hopes to create a forum for sharing stories and inspiration across cultures. **AMANTEA: Personal and Public Lives** sees artist Gisele Amantea examining the lives of Italian communities in western Canada in two art installations. *The King v. Picariello and Lassandro*, is a

*visual narrative of the real-life story of Filumena “Florence” Lassandro and Emilio Picariello, Italian immigrants who were hanged in 1923 for the murder of an Alberta Provincial Police Officer. The second installation is a personal look at Amantea’s own family history titled, and sorrow come near us no more.*

***Belonging: A Place for Everyone  
June 30 – September 30, 2007  
Glenbow Museum, second floor***

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*Glenbow Museum is one of Canada’s largest and most entrepreneurial museums generating nearly 70% of its revenue from fundraising, sponsorships and admissions. Thanks to this support, Glenbow is able to showcase a variety of dynamic exhibitions and programs and a broad collection of artifacts, art, and historical documents. Glenbow Museum builds on a commitment to preserve western heritage while simultaneously providing visitors with a glimpse of the world beyond.*