

For Immediate Release – April 22, 2010

Bern Smith: A Tribute to the Artist **May 7 – June 22, 2010**

Banff, Alberta – The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies celebrates the work of well-known Banff artist Bern Smith (1928 – 2009) with both an art show and sale, and a showcase exhibition, **Bern Smith: A Tribute to the Artist**. The show and sale is featured by the Museum Shop in the Swiss Guides Room; the showcase exhibition is featured in the Rummel Room.

Bern Smith first pursued a career in commercial art and illustration and was one of Harlequin's most prolific cover illustrators, painting more than 800 book covers. After a lengthy and successful career freelancing, he decided to make the difficult transition to fine art. His interest in watercolour painting was prompted by his travels to the Canadian Rockies, where inspirations came from viewing the work of W.J. Phillips and A.C. Leighton, two of Canada's premier watercolourists.

Bern settled in the British Columbia interior and continued to hone his skills in watercolour techniques. He exhibited extensively in the interior cities of Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Vernon, and Kamloops. A mixed media portrait of Bern's was purchased for the permanent collection of the Kamloops Municipal Gallery.

The awesome beauty of the Rockies kept beckoning him and finally in 1987 he moved to Banff, a place he called his true home. Bern established himself in the artistic community of Alberta with the acquisition of his work by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the selection and presentation of his work to international sponsors for the Banff Television Festival in the early 90s.

His paintings hang in homes, public buildings, and corporate offices throughout North America.

A number of collectors have contributed a strong cross-section of his work with pieces from private collections for the showcase exhibition, and we also extend our thanks to Harlequin for providing some of his original illustrations for their book covers.

This is a unique opportunity to view Bern's work, share your favorite memories of this colourful character of a man, and perhaps add a Bern Smith original to your collection.

Show & Sale Opening Reception – May 7, 7 – 9 pm

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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.

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

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