

For Immediate Release – March 25, 2010

**Robert Sinclair: *Dust of Days* opens at Whyte Museum
April 10 - June 13, 2010**

Banff, Alberta – The **Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies** is pleased to present a retrospective exhibition that reveals the evolution of Robert Sinclair, one of Western Canada's most original landscape painters.

When Robert Sinclair began painting landscapes in the early 1970s, he followed his own road and roads became the center of his paintings and acrylic sculptures for the next two decades. A very early drawing, a precursor to the "Road Series," illustrates Sinclair's move from his earlier figurative work to landscape. In many of the acrylic stain paintings of *The Great Canadian Landscape*, it is unclear if the road is coming or going. Ambiguous spaces function similarly in his landscape sculptures, each made from a single sheet of acrylic which is cut, folded and formed, then touched selectively with paint.

When Sinclair began to move into *The Floating Landscape*, his next series, he practiced brushwork and studied sumi-e with Shozo Sato in Colorado and California. He returns to this later with his black and white mitt painting. *The Floating Landscape* captures mountains as frozen waves in the Bow Valley, the Wilmore Wilderness, and Jasper National Park.

Robert grew up with fields of wheat that became undulating oceans in the breeze. Always having seen the landscape as fluid, Sinclair moved easily toward depicting waterfalls and snow melt in his *Iced and Watered* images. When he went to Newfoundland, he envisioned "a series of paintings with a single floating iceberg in the ocean, with a simple horizon line." These paintings demonstrate that Sinclair is not just a Western Canadian painter, but an artist who has portrayed the wild tranquility of Canada from coast to coast.

Sinclair's landscapes are all painted from memory. In *Remembered Landscapes*, the viewer may recognize a mountain peak, but not the surrounding view. His art has never meant to be descriptive.

In the early 1970s, Sinclair became interested in botanics, an interest that has continued throughout his career. It is in his *Alberta Wildflowers Series* that he hits his stride with botanics. The exhibition features many of these works, including a coffee table with eighteen 6" x 6" watercolours, all of which are painted to scale. Unlike his landscapes, Sinclair's botanics are drawn from observation, but are still painted from memory.

Dust of Days reveals the spatial reversal of Haiku that characterizes Sinclair's work. From acrylic stain paintings to sculpture to watercolour, he balances opposites. In this exhibition, we can follow Robert down his universal road, stopping to wonder at a sunset or to feel the spray of a waterfall, or simply to smell the flowers.

A significant number of works from this exhibition will be donated to the Whyte Museum by the artist.

The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies gratefully acknowledges the support of this exhibit by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Scott Gallery, Willock and Sax Gallery.

Artist's Biography

Robert Sinclair is a practicing Canadian professional artist who has exhibited regularly in Canada since 1972. He taught art at the University of Alberta from 1965 to 1996. He is also a teacher of tai chi and has practiced Buddhist meditation for many years. He is represented in many corporate and public collections across Canada, America, Europe, and Japan. Since 1965 his work has been featured in 73 solo exhibitions and 47 group shows at public galleries, universities, and commercial galleries in Canada, the United States, and abroad.

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS

Exhibition Opening

Saturday, April 10, 7 to 9 PM
Artist in Attendance
Whyte Museum, 111 Bear Street

Robert Sinclair: Dust of Days – Artist Walkabout

Sunday, April 11, 2 PM
Included with Museum admission, FREE for members
Join artist Robert Sinclair for a stroll through his exhibition *Dust of Days*. In this informal presentation, Robert will discuss the phases of his career as they are reflected in the works of art featured in the show.
Whyte Museum, 111 Bear Street

Robert Sinclair Retreat

April 5 to 11, 2010
This retreat/workshop, with internationally recognized Canadian artist Robert Sinclair, will continue his teachings in watercolor/drawing and mindfulness in the spectacular surroundings of Banff National Park. Must pre-register; call 403.762.2214. Fee is \$892.00, including GST.
Willock and Sax Gallery
110 Bison Courtyard, 211 Bear Street

Robert Sinclair Travel Log Exhibition

April 8 – 14, 2010
Opening Reception, Saturday, April 10, 2 to 5 pm
Willock and Sax Gallery
110 Bison Courtyard, 211 Bear Street

About the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

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.

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

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