

For Immediate Release – April 30, 2009

**SKETCHING WITH BATEMAN :
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOW VALLEY YOUNG PEOPLE ON MAY 2, 2009**

Banff, Alberta – The **Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies** is delighted to announce that Robert Bateman, regarded as one of the world's greatest wildlife artists, will lead a unique sketching opportunity with Bow Valley young people on May 2, 2009.

Young people throughout the Bow Valley were invited to participate by submitting a drawing or painting of a local landscape or Rocky Mountain animal. Chosen by random draw, the lucky participants from Banff and Canmore will join Bateman for an instructional session at the museum on May 2. Sunny Raven Gallery in Canmore has generously donated sketch books and supplies for program participants.

Planned Schedule

- 10:45 am** Young artists meet with Robert Bateman in the Swiss Guides Room at the Whyte Museum for a ½ hour slide show presentation
- 11:15 am** Young artists and Robert Bateman move outside (weather permitting) for a sketching session on the Museum Grounds

Bateman's career as a wildlife artist has led him to make important connections with environmental concerns and conservation. He is also an advocate for the education of young people to enhance their understanding of the wildlife in their own backyard. He has developed a program especially for young people called **Get to Know** www.gettoknow.ca, based on the philosophy that "caring begins with knowing our neighbours of other species."

For almost a decade, through a series of programs, events, and drawing competitions, **Get to Know's** mission is to help the next generation to discover the wildlife wonders that can be found in their own neighbourhood. It's a mission derived from Bateman's personal experience as a child. "My life has always been immersed in nature. It has been inspiring, adventurous and fun. I have been thrilled by everything from gorillas in the rainforests of the Congo to the penguins of the Antarctic. But none of these spectacular experiences has been any more enchanting than the nature I discovered as a young boy in the ravine below our backyard [in Toronto]."

Bateman will launch the Whyte Museum's exhibition, **The Art of Robert Bateman**, the evening of May 2, 2009, during the Museum's semi-annual fundraiser, **A Brush With Nature**. The exhibition includes over 50 of Bateman's original artworks, including oils and acrylics, bronze sculpture, pen and ink drawings, plus the artist's personal sketchbooks, books and videos. Open to the public on May 3, 2009, the exhibit runs until September 7, 2009.

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 this event, and the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, please contact:

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