

For Immediate Release – October 22, 2007

LES GRAFF AT THE WHYTE MUSEUM

Les Graff's decade-long expression of the Alberta landscape will be on exhibit in Banff, Alberta at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.

A farmer's son and Alberta boy through and through, Les Graff was born in Camrose, Alberta in 1936 and graduated from the Alberta College of Art & Design at the age of 23 in 1959. Throughout his career in Alberta's civil service (1960 – 1991) Les produced and exhibited abstract paintings and drawings inspired by his rural upbringing, the Alberta landscape and his memories. However, it was not until his retirement in 1991 that the creation of art finally became the central focus Les's life.

This focus included a regimen of on-site sketching, drawing, oil studies, and large-scale paintings, incorporating a unique 'visual vocabulary' inspired by the Alberta landscape. Les's abstract expression of this landscape comes directly from his rural connections, escaping traditional interpretation through the continued development of his own techniques.

Speaking about his upcoming exhibition at the Whyte Museum, Graff said: "My art career actually started in 1955 at The Banff Centre – so Banff has always been a beginning place for me. Fifty-two years later, it's really exciting to come back and have an exhibition at the Whyte Museum in the town where it all began."

Les Graff's work will be on exhibition in the Main Gallery.

Exhibition Opening: October 27, 2007 7-9pm

Les Graff: *Landscape as Metaphor: A Retrospective*

Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

October 27, 2007 – January 13, 2008

For more information, please contact:

Katie Daniel, Marketing & Communications Specialist

Phone: 403-762-2291 ext. 316

Fax: 403-762-8919

Email: kdaniel@whyte.org