

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Enbridge partners with the Alberta College of Art + Design for renowned LA portrait photographer Blake Little exhibition

Enbridge becomes lead sponsor of ACAD President's Emerging Artist + Designer Program

June 26, 2014 – (Calgary, AB) Renowned portrait photographer Blake Little's work has been brought to Calgary thanks to Enbridge Inc.'s sponsorship of the Alberta College of Art +Design's (ACAD) new **President's Emerging Artist + Designer Program**. *Blake Little: Western Project* is an exhibition of 37 large-scale portrait photographs shot during the summer of 2012. The exhibition is produced and circulated by the Illingworth Kerr Gallery at the Alberta College of Art + Design.

As the lead sponsor of this program, Enbridge Inc. will host a presentation of a number of the *Blake Little: Western Project* photographs in their community reception area for their employees on June 26th. A component of the President's Emerging Artist + Designer Program allows varied art work from ACAD students, alumni or works curated by ACAD's Illingworth Kerr Gallery to be featured in this space every four months.

Under the Enbridge Emerging Artist + Designer sponsorship with ACAD, they are proud to present the Enbridge Alumni Professional Development Award annually to one ACAD alumnus. This year, the \$5,000 award is being presented to Beverley Tosh, who received her Masters of Fine Art in Painting from the University of Calgary in 1987, graduated with Distinction from Alberta College of Art + Design (Painting, 1985) and taught at ACAD from 1988-2002. *One-Way Passage* is a war brides series based on her personal history and has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Tosh is also the long-term president of the Burns Visual Arts Society of Calgary, Alberta's oldest studio cooperative.

"As a proud graduate of the Alberta College of Art and Design, I am deeply honoured to be selected as the 2014 recipient of Enbridge's Alumni Professional Development Award," said Beverly Tosh. "This generous award will enable me to complete and exhibit my new artwork in Australia. The culmination of years of research and exploration, *Tug of War* (2014) finds new voice in steel wire, seawater, textiles, text and paint."

"ACAD's responsibility as a leader in art, craft and design education extends beyond the classroom into our various communities. As such the President's Emerging Artist + Designer Program is truly an integral part of fostering a healthy environment for the success of emerging artistic talent," said Dr. Daniel Doz, President + CEO of ACAD. "Enbridge's support of this program as well as the Enbridge Alumni Professional Development Award speaks volumes as to how they champion the critical value of the arts in Calgary."

"Enbridge is pleased to partner with ACAD to sponsor the President's Emerging Artist + Designer Program," said D'Arcy Levesque, Vice President, Enterprise Communications, Brand and Community Partners. "as we believe in helping communities become culturally vibrant through investments in the arts as well as in programs and organizations that bring culture to communities."

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For more information:

Kara Tersen
Director of Philanthropy
kara.tersen@acad.ca

BACKGROUND

About the ACAD President's Emerging Artist + Designer Program

The President's Emerging Artist + Designer Program creates a robust program for corporations to provide support for art education scholarships, provides entrepreneurial experiences for art students, and creates a platform by which extraordinary young talent is showcased.

For corporate sponsors, this is an opportunity to be a named sponsor of this one-of-a-kind scholarship program and have a significant impact on the financial costs of post-secondary arts education, assist in launching a young artists career, and enhance a young artist's business and entrepreneurial skills.

Under this program, original artwork is loaned to the participating corporations and can be changed every four, six months or 12 months, and sponsors can host a reception, lunch and learn for employees or host other exclusive events for their employees and stakeholders to learn about the artists and their work.

ACAD is proud to celebrate Enbridge Inc. as the lead sponsor of the President's Emerging Artist + Designer program for three years from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016.

About the Enbridge Alumni Professional Development Award

Enbridge Alumni Professional Development Award worth \$5,000 is granted annually in 2014, 2015 and 2016 to an ACAD graduate, following selection of their work through a juried competition.

About Blake Little: Western Project:

What intrigued photographer Blake Little about rural Alberta was the diversity of human subjects he met over 12 days in June and July, 2012. He had never shot portraits in Canada before and was pleased with the subjects he found. They were generous with their time, giving themselves over to the process of portraiture, and were keen to see the results. Thanks to personal introductions made by two knowledgeable Staveland area ranchers, Glen and Kelly Hall, the doors to many ranches opened. Little was invited to meet a wide range of rural inhabitants of all ages, from working cowboys and cowgirls to rodeo contestants, rodeo princesses, stock contractors, retirees, farmers and feedlot workers.

Little's subjects are largely rural folks at work, visitors passing through or competing at seasonal rodeos in Arrowwood, Airdrie, Ponoka, and Calgary. Other subjects were introduced at the end of dusty roads leading to the Chinook Feedlot near Vulcan or well-known ranches around Nanton and Staveland. Working with the support of two students from the Alberta College of Art + Design (ACAD) as well as skilled lighting technician John Lichtwardt, Little traveled the seemingly endless side roads and secondary highways of Alberta. From one community to the next, with a portable photo studio and lighting system, Little shot hundreds of portraits, always in expectation of that ever-elusive perfect moment and flawless composition.

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Blake Little is an award winning, Los Angeles-based photographer best known for his ability to intimately capture the energy and personality of his subjects. His skills as a portrait photographer have garnered him a reputation as a favorite amongst celebrities, international publications, and corporate clients. He has worked with Jeff Bridges, Julianne Moore, Steve Carell, Samuel L. Jackson, Gwyneth Paltrow, Tom Cruise, Aaron Eckhart, Marcia Cross, Colin Powell, Kevin Spacey, K.D. Lang, 50 Cent, Iggy Pop, Glenn Close, Jane Fonda, Jack Black, Adrien Brody, and Jane Lynch among many others. He has photographed for publications such as *London Times Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *People*, *Time*,

Los Angeles Magazine and *ESPN the Magazine*. Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Little moved to Los Angeles in 1982 after graduating with a photography degree from Seattle's Central College and became part of the vibrant 1980's LA art scene. His outstanding artist portrait series, which included David Hockney, John Baldessari and Ed Ruscha, lead to commercial assignments in the entertainment industry and began his career.

About Beverley Tosh

As the first recipient of the Enbridge Alumni Professional Development award, Beverley Tosh exemplifies the work, dedication and commitment to ACAD as both alumni and instructor, to the local community, and to her own practice.

Bev Tosh is a contemporary artist and arts educator. She received her Masters of Fine Art in Painting from the University of Calgary in 1987, graduated with Distinction from the Alberta College of Art & Design (Painting, 1985), and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Fine Art from the University of Saskatchewan. She has lectured and taught at the Alberta College of Art & Design for 15 years (1988 — 2002) and the University of Calgary for 10 years (1988 to 1998).

Tosh has received numerous honours and awards including The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012); Alberta Centennial Medal (2006); Woman of Vision Award (2006, Global TV & YVCA); the Distinguished Alumni Award, Alberta College of Art & Design (2002); and induction into the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (2006).

As a practicing artist, Tosh has exhibited widely. *One-Way Passage*, her war brides series based on her personal history, has been exhibited nationally and internationally. This audio-visual probing of memory and identity continues to find new voice in paint, seawater, textile installations and large-scale drawing in wire. As an evolving body of work, it has morphed and changed with new installation components and content. As a solo exhibition it has been displayed in art galleries and museums from coast to coast including the Royal BC Museum (2008), Kelowna Art Gallery (2005), Glenbow Museum (2009/10), Nickel Art Museum (2005), Canadian War Museum, Ottawa (2007), The Rooms Museum of Newfoundland & Labrador (2008), and in the United States (2010), New Zealand (2010 & 2011) and Europe (2013).

Tosh has lectured internationally at: The National Liberation Museum in the Netherlands (2013); the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, and The Women's Library, Glasgow (2011); University of Auckland and Otago School of Art in New Zealand (2009) and as a keynote presenter in Seattle, Washington and San Antonio. She has presented across Canada from The Rooms Museum of Newfoundland & Labrador in St. Johns to the Royal BC Museum. Throughout Alberta she has been guest symposia or conference presenter at Royal Alberta Museum (2009), Edmonton Art Gallery, Glenbow Museum (2009/2010), the Alberta College of Art & Design (2010), Grande Prairie Art Gallery (2009), Galt Museum (2010), Red Deer College (2009) and Grande Prairie Regional College (2010).

Bev Tosh is the long-term President of the Burns Visual Arts Society of Calgary, Alberta's oldest studio cooperative. She has juried post-secondary Arts scholarships for the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund since 1997. Tosh has initiated and - for over a decade - expanded a scholarship program for creative teens in cities and rural locations throughout Alberta, administering awards that include free tuition and accommodation for Red Deer College's summer school in the arts. She volunteers weekly in a creative and story-telling context with seniors, including those with Alzheimers, and with marginalized populations including shut-ins and the terminally ill. For her commitment to community Bev Tosh was awarded Calgary Rotary Club's 2010 Integrity Award.