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**Artists in Residence to engage local community**

Edmonton – The John and Maggie Mitchell Art Gallery will host four prominent artists over the summer as part of its new Summer Residency Program.

“Having artists at the gallery allows university and community members to learn about the artist’s processes by seeing their artwork in progress,” said Carolyn Jervis, gallery director. “We are happy to support these local, national and international artists with a dedicated space and time to develop their respective art practices.”

“At the beginning of each residency there will be a Meet the Artist event—an opportunity to learn about what each artist will be doing during their residency and learn more about the artist,” says Jervis. “Public programs scheduled throughout summer will give visitors an opportunity to engage with and learn from the artists.”

The four artists are Halie Finney, Olivia Chow, Florence Yee and Courtney Surmanek.

Finney’s artwork reflects her Métis heritage through stories told by family members. She aims to create fantasy-like reflections of the Lesser Slave Lake region. Finney’s original characters exist in non-linear narratives expressed through animations, costumes, paintings, and performances. *(May 9 - June 8)*

Chow is an artist and curator based in Hong Kong. Her artistic and curatorial practice concentrate on communal activities and installations that build on audience relations and their social context to construct a new experience. *(June 11 - July 13)*

Yee is a Montreal based visual artist. Her interest in Cantonese-Canadian history has fueled an art practice committed to dismantling institutional ideals of Eurocentric patriarchy, as well as examining the daily life of her diaspora. *(July 16 - August 17)*

Surmanek is a New York-based multidisciplinary artist. She creates installation artworks, performance-poetry, and community-based initiatives. She is in the process of conducting an oral history project called 1,000 Bridges that reveals how systematic oppression determines the planning of cities, and provides a unique window into America’s working class. *(August 11 - 31)*

Dates for Meet the Artist Events: Halie Finney: Thursday, May 10, 5-7 p.m.
Olivia Chow: Thursday, June 14, 5-7 p.m.
Florence Yee: Thursday, July 19, 5-7 p.m.
Courtney Surmanek: Thursday, August 16, 5-7 p.m.

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For more information, please contact:
David Beharry, Media Relations Advisor
780-497-5586  Cell: 780- 231-5954  Email: beharryd@macewan.ca

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