

National Defence



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Attention News Editors:

Canadian Forces Artists Program Unveils Art from Inaugural Year

OTTAWA, Nov. 13 /CNW/ - The official launch of the first works of the Canadian Forces Artists Program was held today at National Defence Headquarters. The program's three inaugural artists- Ardell Bourgeois (Air Force), John Horton (Navy), and Allan Mackay (Army)-were on hand to display their works.

Each artist spent about 10 days in the summer of 2002 documenting the Canadian Forces at work in Afghanistan and the Gulf Region on Operation APOLLO. The artists will contribute several of their works to the Canadian Forces Artists Program collection.

"Today we continue the tradition of documenting in art the dedicated and honourable work of our military men and women," said General Ray Henault, Chief of the Defence Staff.

"Canada has a long and proud history of interpreting the work of our military through the arts. We hope this program will honour and advance that tradition, and usher in a new era in Canadian military art," added General Henault.

The program, initially announced on June 6, 2001, provides selected members of the Canadian arts community the opportunity to document Canada's armed forces at work, both at home and around the world. As with other art programs, there is an application process judged by a selection committee.

The production of Canadian war art began in 1916 with the creation of the Canadian War Memorial Fund, responsible for more than 800 paintings, sculptures, and printed works by the end of the First World War.

The Canadian War Records Program, begun in 1942, added paintings from the Second World War. The Canadian Armed Forces Civilian Artists Program, active from 1968 to 1995, recorded the work of the Canadian Forces' domestic and foreign operations of that era.

The Canadian Forces Artists Program now takes up the torch.