

MEDIA RELEASE – THE LEIGHTON ART CENTRE GALLERY AND MUSEUM

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TONY LUPPINO

Calgary – Paul Squires, Chairman, and the Board of Directors of the Leighton Art Centre, Gallery and Museum are pleased to announce that effective September 1, 2010 Mr. Tony Luppino will be joining the Leighton Art Centre as Executive Director.

“I have been intrigued for years by this art centre in the foothills that nurtures practicing artists and inspires art and nature appreciators,” said Mr. Luppino about the Leighton Art Centre. “The Centre has ambitious plans to build on its unique Alberta heritage inspired by an artist who was way ahead of his time in being an architect, furniture designer, commercial graphic artist and painter of the Rockies. This is an opportunity to make a real contribution to the visual arts in Western Canada at so many levels that I just could not pass up the opportunity,” he added.

Mr. Luppino has been a leader in the Canadian and Alberta visual arts and cultural communities for more than 20 years, where his experience includes serving as a board member for organizations such as the McMichael Gallery in Ontario. More recently, Tony served as Executive Director of the Art Gallery of Alberta from 2003 to 2009 during which time he provided leadership in programming and collections as well as the funding and construction of the new gallery. Since leaving

the AGA, he has been providing consulting support to a number of not for profit organizations in Alberta.

In addition to his background in arts and culture, Tony brings with him a significant breadth and depth of international leadership experience in the arts, communications, advertising and marketing, having worked with a number of international organizations.

The Leighton Art Centre was established in 1970 by Barbara Leighton with a focus on encouraging the general public to both produce and appreciate the visual arts. The Centre occupies the former family home of AC and Barbara Leighton and provides the public with the opportunity to learn about the Leightons’ art in the setting in which much of it was created. A major focus of the Centre is on supporting arts education for Alberta schoolchildren and professional development for emerging Canadian artists.

Today, the Leighton Art Centre receives in excess of 25,000 visitors annually including approximately 12,000 school children from Calgary and area. Adult artists attend art workshops and visit the site for inspiration and subject matter. In support of its overall objectives, the Centre offers an ongoing program of 8 exhibitions a year, special events, museum displays and a winding trail network with a 300 mile panoramic view of the rocky mountains.

For more information about the Leighton Art Centre and its programs please call (403) 931-3633 or E-mail info@leightoncentre.org.