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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Award-winning ceramic artist begins five month residency in Medicine Hat

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Medicine Hat – Award-winning ceramic artist, Marty Shuter, has arrived in Medicine Hat to take part in a five month residency with the Medalta International Artists in Residence (MIAIR) program. At 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 17, she will be giving a talk about her work at the Historic Clay District's Medalta Potteries National Historic Site. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Shuter's arrival marks the beginning of MIAIR's expanded programming. This spring, the residency will be moving from its previous home at the Hycroft China site to the International Centre for Contemporary Ceramics, which is a new artists' centre in the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site. The new space has been created under the guidance of Artistic Director Les Manning who was previously the Director of the renowned Ceramics program at the Banff Centre.

Originally from Ohio, Shuter has been teaching art at the university level for more than six years and has exhibited her work throughout the United States. In 2007, she made her first trip to Canada where she worked at the Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) as a visiting artist and lecturer. Among her many awards, she won the Ohio Arts Council 2007 Individual Excellence Award for sculpture. A recent review of her solo exhibition in Calgary was featured in the latest issue of Fusion Magazine.

Medicine Hat is a natural fit for Shuter because of its unique clay history and the opportunities presented with MIAIR's expanding programming. "I look forward to making new work in a community so steeped in ceramic history at a time when MIAIR is launching its expanded residency program in a brand new facility."

Manning is pleased to have an artist of Shuter's calibre in Medicine Hat because it "is a new voice and an artist who works in different ways than we do, which includes taking risks outside the clay tradition. This ultimately invites a multi-media approach to art."

In addition to her own work and lecture on Tuesday, February 17, Shuter will be teaching ceramics classes through Medicine Hat College's Continuing Studies. Her classes on ceramic sculpture and mold making are open to people of all skill levels.

The Historic Clay District is Western Canada's largest National Historic Site. In addition to the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site, the District also includes the Hycroft China site and the last remaining beehive kiln from the massive Alberta Clay Products plant that was lost to fire in 1961. It is operated under the stewardship of the Friends of Medalta Society.

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