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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Medalta International Artists in Residence begins eleventh year

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Medicine Hat – On Monday, June 1, the Medalta International Artists in Residence (MIAIR) program began its eleventh year and the first in the newly completed Shaw International Centre for Contemporary Ceramics. Six invited artists are participating in this year’s residency, which runs through the month of June. As part of the program, the artists will be showing their work in the Squared Gallery at the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site. There will be an Opening Reception for the show, *Clay Dynamics*, on Friday, June 5 from 8:00pm – 9:30pm. The reception is free of charge and gives Hatters the chance to see ceramic art from other parts of the country.

In the past, the MIAIR program has hosted artists from as far away as Greece, China and Australia. This year, the first in the new facility, there is a strong Canadian focus. “We are fortunate to have artists from coast-to-coast in Canada, as well as the United States. With the opening of the new Shaw Centre, we felt it was important to foster Canadian artists” says Jane MacKay, Co-Chair of the MIAIR Committee responsible for running the residency. “Canada has a wealth of artists – many who have gained international attention – and this residency will act as a facilitator in the exchange of ideas, further enhancing Canadian ceramic art.”

“This year, there are six incredible visiting ceramic artists leading our residency program” says Barry Finkelman, Executive Director of the Historic Clay District. “With the opening of the Shaw Center, we are now able to offer year-round residencies to artists. This will have an enormous impact on our already vibrant artistic community.” Finkelman noted that although the artists will appear to receive the most obvious benefit, all of Medicine Hat is richer for the inspiration provided by their presence.

Clay Dynamics is the first chance for the public to meet the artists and see their work. The Opening Reception takes place on Friday, June 5 from 8:00pm – 9:30pm at the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site at 713 Medalta Ave SE. The event is free of charge and everyone is welcome. *Clay Dynamics* will be in the Squared Gallery throughout the residency, which ends on June 26.

The Historic Clay District is one of eight attractors in the Canadian Badlands, featured in AMA’s “Alberta 100 Journeys” and is Western Canada’s largest National Historic Site. The District museum – in the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site – provides visitors a unique opportunity to visit a restored 1912 pottery factory, which once produced three-quarters of all stoneware in Canada. It is operated under the stewardship of the Friends of Medalta Society.

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