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For Immediate Release

Art in the County Moves Online!

April 23, 2020 - ART IN THE COUNTY (AIRC) is an annual juried exhibition and sale presented by the **Prince Edward County Arts Council** and **Welch LLP**.

Since 1993, Art in the County has sold over \$350,000 worth of art to collectors, buyers and art lovers alike. Artworks in a wide range of media are showcased, including watercolour, acrylic, oil and encaustic paintings, sculpture, fibre, wood, photography, ceramics, glass and more. The highly anticipated annual event is the largest collection of artwork by Prince Edward County artists on display for the public. The 2019 edition of the show featured 107 works by 75 local artists on display in The Mess Hall at The Armoury in Picton.

As per public health recommendations to maintain physical distancing during the COVID-19 global pandemic, this year's show is moving online for the first time.

"Art in the County is an incredibly important show for our arts community," says Janna Smith, Executive Director, Prince Edward County Arts Council. "We felt it was critical to support artists by adapting and moving forward together."

The Art in the County Organizing Committee was unanimous in the decision to move the show online.

Mayor Steve Ferguson, who was confirmed to be in attendance for the media launch and Opening Night Reception, sent his support of Art in the County via email to say, "Kudos for pivoting in a way that will enable the public to see firsthand the great work of this important sector that will prevail once this is all over. The role the arts play to assist the public through crises - and this is a crisis of unprecedented scale - can't be underestimated, so many thanks for the efforts of all involved, disappointing as the circumstances are."

The committee recognizes that it is a difficult time for many local businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector, and is grateful to the sponsors who are able to maintain their support. "With the support of our sponsors," says Amy Shubert, Chair, Art in the County Organizing Committee, "we feel privileged to play a role in promoting the extraordinary talent of local artists especially during these uncertain times."

PRESENTING SPONSOR

WELCH LLP will remain as the 2020 Presenting Sponsor. For 18 years, Welch LLP (previously through Murray & Associates) has supported the juried exhibition and sale.

SHOW OPENS ONLINE ON JUNE 19

The 27th edition of Art in the County will open online on **June 19 and run until July 31**. Visitors will be able to find a link to the online store/gallery on Art in the County's website. Art in the County has reduced its commission from 30% to 15% to ensure that artists earn as much as possible. We will process sales and pay

transaction fees on behalf of artists who are responsible for shipping or delivering their artwork to buyers. Art in the County has not reduced its marketing budget, and will continue to promote the show locally and regionally, including a rigorous social media campaign.

CALL FOR ENTRY OPEN UNTIL JUNE 5

Entry deadline for submitting registration form, digital images (including video of 3D work) and payment is **June 5 at 12PM**. Visit www.artinthecounty.com to read eligibility requirements and conditions, including tips on how to photograph artwork.

JURORS

Three award-winning Canadian artists will “stay at home” and serve as jurors for this year’s exhibition:

Peter Dušek, Photographer (Hockley Valley, ON), **Otis Tamasauskas**, Printmaker (Gananoque, ON), and **Lenni Workman**, Painter (Warkworth, ON). Please visit our website to read complete bios.

AWARDS

Jurors are solely responsible for the show’s content, as well as selecting the ***Jurors’ Choice Awards*** and ***Honorable Mention Awards***. We would like to thank the following award sponsors for maintaining their support through these difficult times: Arts on Main Gallery, City Revival, County Dental Care Picton, Gilbert & Lighthall Marketplace, Family Dentistry at Picton, The Local Store and The Manse Boutique Inn.

Unfortunately, the **Maison Depoivre Award** will not be presented this year, as the gallery is uncertain as to when they will open their doors in 2020. We would like to thank Christophe Doussot and Vincent Depoivre for their continued support of Art in the County and of local artists. The 2019 recipient was Dianne Kehoe.

COMMUNITY ART BUILDER AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN UNTIL JUNE 5

Sponsored by **Sam Simone, Monica Klingenberg & Laurie Gruer of Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited Brokerage**, the Community Art Builder Award returns in 2020. With nominees chosen by County residents, The Community Art Builder Award recognizes an individual who has enriched community life through the arts. Past recipients include Krista Dalby (2019) and Alice & Peter Mennacher of Blizzmax Gallery (2018). All 2020 nominations must be received by June 5. The Award, which includes a \$250 monetary gift, will be announced on June 19. To learn more and to submit a nomination, visit www.artinthecounty.com.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Due to physical distancing practices, the Opening Night Reception cannot take place this year. The winners of the Jurors’ Choice Awards, Honourable Mentions, and Community Art Builder Award will be announced in social media and posted on Art in the County’s website.

Art in the County is grateful for the continued support of Sage Design & Construction, who had originally planned to support the Opening Night Reception, and to Elizabeth Crombie Real Estate Team Royal LePage, who had originally planned to support the free Canada Day Celebrations.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

The plan is to return to an in-person exhibition in 2021.

For more information about Art in the County, visit: www.artinthecounty.com, call the Prince Edward County Arts Council at (613) 476-8767 or e-mail: artinthecounty@countyarts.ca.

The Prince Edward County Arts Council is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization. Art in the County is also non-profit, and every dollar raised is used to produce the show.