

EXHIBIT FACT SHEET

The Galt Museum & Archives presents *The Vanishing Landscape: E.F. Hagell* from May 12 to September 16, 2007.

EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

Today Alberta cowboys deplore the vanishing landscape as fences and urban expansion deconstruct the prairie grasslands. The same lament was made by the southern Alberta illustrative artist, **Edward Frederick [Ted] Hagell** [1895-1964], in the mid-20th Century.

E.F. Hagell's life's work reflected the landscape and the people, including the cowboy, who lived and worked on the land. Works reflecting this concept selected from the Hagell Collection at the Galt Museum & Archives include ink drawings, mixed media, crayon and oil. Audio and computer interactive stations will also be included, along with three-dimensional objects from the Hagell Collection.

Modern perspectives of the vanishing landscapes are presented in *Prairie Winds*, a multi-media presentation included in the exhibit, by Ted Hagell's grandson, **Ron Hagell Jr.**, himself an internationally recognized artist.

E.F. [TED] HAGELL BIO

Hagell was born in Lethbridge, the son of Edward Hagell, the printer for the *Lethbridge News*, the first newspaper to operate in southern Alberta. When Hagell left high school in Lethbridge he roamed southern Alberta sometimes working as a cowboy, indulging his love of horses and the prairie. He became an internationally recognized artist, poet and author, painting and writing about the wild west. He exhibited at the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Ontario Art Gallery, the Royal British Columbia Museum, The Glenbow Museum, and in Montreal at the Royal Academy of Art exhibition, as well as at many other venues.

In his self-illustrated 1954 book, *When the Grass Was Free*, Ted Hagell provides a glimpse of the Canadian cowhand in southern Alberta during a Canadian winter. His stories give the reader a picture of the ranch hand's work. Hagell not only wrote about the cowhand, he also drew sometimes humorous, sometimes serious, stories of the Canadian west; his cartoons were published in the Lethbridge Herald.

"A Toast to the Old West"

by Ted Hagell

I loved the spanking freedom
Of the wind from out the West,
I loved the high-piled glory
Of the clouds on mountain crest.

I loved the great wild freedom
Of the waving grassy plain,
The snow piled deep in winter.
The mist like springtime rain.

The plow team's chains a-rattling,
The herding cowboy's yell,
The fireside in the evening,
The water from the well.

*From the book "A Toast to the Old West" published posthumously in 1976
by Ted's wife Cora,*





RON HAGELL JR. BIO

A media artist, filmmaker and photographer and a senior lecturer in Media Arts at Royal Holloway – University of London in England, Ron Hagell Jr. has produced the EMMY nominated documentary *Vietnam: Still Fighting* and several short experimental narrative films. He was, for many years, a producer/director with PBS, the American public TV network, and a manager at Lifetime Television, a New York based cable network. His current work includes dance films, narrative dramatic works dealing with cinematic time experimentation and expanding his continuing photographic and painting interests into the digital field.



Ron Hagell Jr.
Ted Dreams, 2006
Digital media

Ron Hagell Jr. regularly exhibits in London, England and internationally, with an installation recently presented at the Orphan Film Symposium, USA. Other works are held in the collections of the Mousonturm (Frankfurt, Germany), the Dance Collection at Lincoln Centre, the New York State Museum, various PBS/CPB stations and the Museum of Native Americans (New York City). His *Prairie Winds* installation, part of *The Vanishing Landscape* at the Galt Museum, is also shown in Maidstone, Kent, UK.

WILMA WOOD – GUEST CURATOR

Wilma Wood has specialized in managing start-up projects since 1968. She formed WOODCO in 1982 to fill a market niche in the heritage field for start-up projects. A journalist and teacher until 1968, she went on to develop the first education and public programs at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria, B.C. She has extensive overseas and Canadian experience in project planning and management, as well as considerable experience in current interpretative planning. Ms. Wood has been the Director at the Revelstoke Railway Museum, B.C., the Vancouver Museum, and was Director/Curator at the [Sir Alexander] Galt Museum & Archives from 1999-2002 and Project Manager for the Galt's *Ancestors* exhibit [2002-2003].

ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

Edward Frederick Hagell: The Legacy of a Southern Alberta Artist, author: Wilma Wood
The Vanishing Landscape exhibit catalogue, author: Wilma Wood
Retail \$27.95 ea at the Galt Museum Store

MEDIA CONTACTS

Wilma Woods, Guest Curator –
The Vanishing Landscape: E.F. Hagell
cell 403. 315-2362

Wendy Aitkens, Curator –
Galt Museum & Archives
403.320-3907 | waitkens@galtmuseum.com



RELATED PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

OPENING RECEPTION

Fri **MAY 11** | 7:00 – 9:00 pm | by invitation | Sponsored in part by Catering By Ericksen's Artist Ron Hagell Jr. , other E.F. Hagell family members, and Guest Curator Wilma Wood will be in attendance.

ASSOCIATED EXHIBITS

Contemporary Landscapes: Toni Onley

main level hallway
On loan from the Southern Alberta Art Gallery

Lasting Impressions: Annabelle McKenzie & Jessie Ursenbach

lower level & Canbra Foods Archives Reference Room
From the Galt Museum Collections
Guest Curator: Melissa Sherwood, U of L Applied Studies

The Archives Exposed... Landscapes

Community Savings Learning Studio & Friends of the Galt meeting rooms, main level
Photographs selected from the Galt Museum Archives
Guest Curator: Trish Purkis, Archives Assistant.

MUSEUM FREE DAY

Sun **MAY 13** | 10:00 am to 4:30 pm | *free admission*

2:00 pm Cowboys and Indians: A Different Perspective

The stereotypical myth of the "Wild West" is that there were Indians and cowboys. The truth is that from the early days First Nations in the West have been cowboys. Blanche Bruised Head – the Galt's Blackfoot interpreter since the 2002 *Akaitapiiwa/Ancestors* exhibit also curated by Wilma Wood – will share personal stories and perspective on her family's rodeo and cowboy history in order to help us understand the complex and nuanced history of the First Nations cowboy.

PLUS SAVE 20% off *Edward Frederick Hagell: The Legacy of a Southern Alberta Artist* and *The Vanishing Landscape* exhibit catalogue [retail \$27.95 ea] in the Museum Store.

GUIDED TOURS of *The Vanishing Landscape: E.F. Hagell* or of the permanent exhibit are available for groups. **To book a tour or a class visit contact Belinda Crowson: 403.320-4248 | bcrowson@galtmuseum.com**

COWBOY UP BUS TOUR

Sat JUN 23 | 1:00 - 10:00 pm

\$80⁰⁰
per person
MAX 40*
registration
closes
JUN 15

Begin at the Galt with a tour of *The Vanishing Landscape*, followed by an interpretive bus ride to the Bloomin' Inn Guest Ranch in Pincher Creek with steak supper, cowboy poetry & music around the campfire.



THE CURATOR PRESENTS... THE LEGACY OF LANDSCAPE IN CANADIAN ART

Wed **MAY 23** | 7:00 pm | *admission fees apply [incl. access to the exhibit] | free to annual pass holders*

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, images of landscape were central to the creation of a sense of Canada as a nation. Later in the 20th C, artists began to address how identity and landscape are linked, by showing people in their environment. Today, Canadian artists are internationally renowned for investigating how the natural, rural and urban landscape connect with a sense of social conditions, economic structures and individual identity. **Guest Speaker Josephine Mills** is the Director/Curator of the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery and an Associate Professor in the Department of Art.

SATURDAYS AT 1 PM

Free with admission | inter-generational [parents and grandparents are welcome to participate!]

- MAY 19** **Calling All Buckaroos** Cowpokes will have fun participating in a cattle round up and sitting around the "camp fire" for stories and a sing along.
- MAY 26** **Howdy Pardner** Sign up for the cattle drive – first you'll need to make yourself a bandana and a brand.
- JUN 02** **Knot what you're expecting** Rope yourself some fun with lasso practice and knot tying demonstrations.
- JUN 09** **Cowboy's Best Friend** Sit a spell and try these crafts and activities centered on the cowboy's best friend ~ the horse.

CAFÉ GALT

Tuesdays | 7:00 pm | *Community Savings Learning Studio*

- MAY 15** **Brian Smith, Cowboy Poet** After retiring from the RCMP Bryan has actively participated in the outdoor western life by being a riding coach, packer and backcountry guide. A regular feature at cowboy poetry gatherings, he is also President of the Handicapped Riding Association, author of Mountains, Mounties & Memories and has recorded a CD of cowboy poetry, A Cowboy Collaboration with Ed Brown.
- MAY 29 | JUN 12 | AUG 28** *check www.galtmuseum.com for updates*
- JUN 26** **Reader's Theatre: The Unmentionable History of the West** A fond romp through the underwear worn by men and women in days gone by... corsets, navy blue bloomers, long underwear with a trap door and bras that could kill; the many silences and secrets about private lives until the 1960s and the social revolution. Serious questions tackled with a good dose of humour! Produced by Nancy Millar.
- JUL 24** **Hagell al fresco** Create panoramic pen and ink drawings using a kalam – a pen traditional to India – to explore the textures of the coulee landscape in the manners of E.F. Hagell and Vincent Van Gogh. Instructor: Mary-Anne McTrowe. MAX 12 participants. *Must register at 403.320-3954.
- AUG 07** **100 year history of the flora and fauna of the coulees** The prairie environment has undergone drastic changes in the last 200 years. Coreen Putman, nature interpreter at the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre, will guide your senses through a journey of an altered landscape.