



# MADE IN CALGARY: THE 1960S

MADE IN CALGARY: THE 1960S IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS AT THE GLENBOW MUSEUM CELEBRATING THE WORK OF SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF CALGARY ARTISTS AND CALGARY'S DESIGNATION AS CULTURAL CAPITAL OF CANADA

Arguably, Calgary is a city that came of age in the '60s. Its population grew from 250,000 in 1961 to 385,000 in 1970. It was also the decade that saw Calgary take on its present form – today's tight core of skyscrapers surrounded by a continually expanding ring of suburbs. At the start of the decade the 20-story Elveden House was among the city's tallest buildings. By 1970 there were office towers nearly twice that stature and the Calgary Tower transcended them all.

Culturally it was a time of great significance and Calgary's visual arts community was flourishing. This unique community and its achievements are the focus of the Glenbow Museum's *Made in Calgary: The 1960s* exhibit.

"One of the most significant things about Calgary in the 1960s is that it had a multi-generational arts community," explains curator Mary-Beth Laviolette. "There are a number of artists beyond the first generation that are living and working

in Alberta. It is a multi-generational community and it's a community that is very aware and very in touch with the rest of the world and what is going on."

Laviolette's passion for art and her experience are apparent as she speaks about the creation of *Made in Calgary* and the evolution of the city's visual arts community. Born in Edmonton, Laviolette is a graduate of Carleton University and has been working in Alberta since 1982. She has curated countless art exhibits in Alberta and written two books, *An Alberta Art Chronicle: Adventures in Recent and Contemporary Art* and *A Delicate Art: Artists, Wildflowers and Native Plants of the West*. She is also the co-author of *Alberta Art and Artists: An Overview*.

Although a community of Alberta-based artists began to take shape in the late 1920s, it wasn't until the 1960s that this community truly received international recognition or reached a level of creative maturity.

