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Rotary Centre for the Arts Launches *Pause In Plight*, a National Internment Art Exhibition by Kerri Parnell

Kelowna, BC – The Rotary Centre for the Arts (RCA) is pleased to announce the opening of its newest exhibition *Pause in Plight*, a National Internment Art Exhibit curated by visual artist Kerri Parnell. The *Pause in Plight* exhibition can be viewed for free by the community from September 9 - October 29 with an opening reception taking place on September 9.

Pause in Plight is a 17-piece Art Exhibit, created with support from the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF). This Exhibit aims to inform the masses of the WW1 national security fears and wartime prejudice, which led to the internment of more than 8,000 men, women, and children primarily of Ukrainian and Eastern European descent deemed as "enemy aliens".

Andrew Stauffer, the RCA's Community and Educational Programming Specialist, says, "One of the many functions of art is to shed light on the inner significance of a subject. Parnell's subject is a tragic one that has unfortunately been overlooked by many. Her artworks invite the viewer to reflect on the history of the people affected by the WWI Canadian internment camps. One must ask, how has this affected families, cultures, and communities? What other historical tragedies have we overlooked? What can we learn from past injustices?"

Pause in Plight is touring across Canada to help bring awareness to this historical injustice. The internment art exhibit is laid out in five different sections: War posters, Light installation, Emotional Interpretation Series, Old Eyes Series, and To Hell with the Alien Enemy. This project has been made possible by a grant from the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund.

Kelowna Visual and Performing Arts Centre Society

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Hi-Res Press Photos Available On Request: Please contact Emily Stubbs at marketingassist@rotarycentreforthearts.com.

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About Kerri Parnell

Kerri Parnell creates art that influences culture and inspires community connections. With her roots in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Kerri attended the University of Manitoba-School of Fine Arts and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her passion is to collaborate with others on projects that promote social awareness and change. Nowhere is this more evident than *Pause in Plight*.

About CFWWIRF

The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund was established to support projects that commemorate and recognize the experiences of all of the ethnocultural communities affected by Canada's first national internment operations from 1914 to 1920. 8,579 so-called "enemy aliens", including women and children, were interned, including Ukrainians, Alevi Kurds, Armenians, Bulgarians, Croatians, Czechs, Germans, Hungarians, Italians, Jews, Ottoman Turks, Poles, Romanians, Russians, Serbians, Slovaks, and Slovenes, among others, of which most were Ukrainians and most were civilians.

For more information on the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund contact the Program Manager, Andrea Malysh, toll-free at 1-866-288-7931. www.internmentcanada.ca

About the Rotary Centre for the Arts

Located in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District, the [Rotary Centre for the Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre. The RCA continually strives to improve the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in the community by fostering participation in, and appreciation of the arts. The RCA brings together individuals of all ages and backgrounds to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines. The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Syilx and Okanagan People.

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