

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2016

SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY'S BETWIXT & BETWEEN: AN UNTOLD TOM THOMSON STORY

OWEN SOUND (ONTARIO) CANADA: The **TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY** receives \$301,960 through the **Museum Assistance Programme, Access to Heritage Component** administered through the **Department of Canadian Heritage**.

The funds received will go towards the production of **Betwixt & Between: An Untold Tom Thomson Story** which opens at the TOM in May 2017. This is a ground-breaking, exploratory project that has been five years in the making. Originally conceived of by artists **Germinio Pio Poli** and **Joel Richardson**, and curated by **Virginia Eichhorn** (Director & Chief Curator of the TOM), the project revolves around the implications of discovering previously unknown artefacts – a map, a book and a photograph – that would shine light on the times in Thomson's life when he would disappear on his own up north. The story fuses fabricated and factual elements, positing a premise that is "85% authentic."

The period covered within the project – 1877-1917 – is pivotal in the development of this country and provides an opportunity to not just tell a story about Tom Thomson, but to create a comprehensive multi-layered response to an investigation of the significant events that were happening then and that continue to have implications today.

Using historic artworks and artefacts integrated with new technologies, the project questions and challenges traditional bastions of authority: museums, educational systems and governments. The educational component that will be developed as part of this project will be integral in cultivating a culture that expects and welcomes change, diverse viewpoints and interpretations and understanding of contemporary and historic events. This is a transformative project that is based on the belief that art can indeed change our world and our understanding of what has happened in the past and how it affects our lives now.

Betwixt & Between: An Untold Tom Thomson Story will tour to the **Confederation Art Centre**, Charlottetown, BC; **Grimsby Public Art Gallery**, Grimsby, ON; **The Reach**, Abbotsford, BC; and the **Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery**, Oshawa, ON.

The TOM gratefully acknowledges support for the **Betwixt & Between** project from the **Department of Canadian Heritage, TD** and the **Ontario Arts Council**.

For more information, or to request interviews and images, please contact Virginia Eichhorn, Director & Chief Curator, Tom Thomson Art Gallery veichhorn@tomthomson.org or 519.376.1932 x223.

Located in Owen Sound, Ontario, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery is a regional public gallery and national cultural attraction with a top-notch and revolving program of contemporary and historical exhibitions, lectures, forums, films, concerts and workshops.

As a dynamic place where artists and audiences can meet and flourish, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery provides enriching experiences through art for a range of visitors, showing the art of today and influencing the art of the future. Established in 1967, the Gallery is named for the iconic Canadian landscape artist Tom Thomson (1877-1917) and houses one of Canada's largest collections of his work. Thomson, who grew up and is buried in the Owen Sound area, was a maverick, a break-away artist who fused a passion for the wilderness with a new style of skillful and experimental painting.

An ambitious program of exhibitions by local and Canadian artists makes the Tom Thomson Art Gallery a focal point for opportunities to experience the ever-changing world of contemporary art.

Admission to the TOM is free or by donation and more information about the Gallery's hours, collection, programs and events can be found at www.tomthomson.org.

The TOM's exhibition programming has been the Owen Sound Transportation Company. major sponsors, partners, members and

made possible in part by our 2016 Exhibition Sponsor, The Gallery gratefully acknowledges its major funders, donors.

