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January 27th, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acclaimed Canadian Artist Nataalka Husar in Saskatoon – presenting her work in a lecture-performance

Please join us for unique, exciting evening with Nataalka Husar.

The Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage is proud to present the 2012 Mohyla Lecture, to be performed by Nataalka Husar, acclaimed Canadian artist on Thursday, February 16th at St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan.

In her first Saskatoon presentation titled “Fasten Your Seatbelt,” Ms. Husar examines themes of identity, displacement, and homeland - a common thread running through much of her work. Working as a playwright, Husar invents psychologically specific characters – including alter-egos for herself – to address contemporary history. In recent years she has been using the concept of post-Soviet Ukraine as a metaphorical stage, upon which her cast of characters express a wide variety of social desires and self-reinventions.

Nataalka Husar received her BFA from Rutgers University in 1973 and that same year moved to Toronto, where she currently lives and works. Since 1992 she has been an Associate Professor at OCAD (Ontario College of Art and Design) University.

Working persistently in the medium of painting, Husar has exhibited widely across Canada during the last three decades and is represented in numerous public collections, including the National Gallery of Canada, the Canada Council Art Bank, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of Alberta, and the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

Her current body of work, researched in Ukraine with the support of a SSHRC grant, is a painted history play in 3 acts titled *Burden of Innocence*. The exhibition circulated on a 5 venue national tour since 2009, stopping at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina this past summer, and was accompanied by two hard-cover publications— an artist’s book and the Husar Handbook. Acts 2 and 3 of this exhibition, under the title *Trial and Banquet*, will be opening at the Douglas UdeU Gallery in Vancouver in March 2012.

The public lecture, with slide presentation, will be held at St. Thomas More College in Room 344B and will begin at 7pm. Commentary on the performance will be provided by Prof. Joan Borsa (Department of Art and Art History, University of Saskatchewan) and Jen Budney (Associate Curator, Mendel Art Gallery).

A reception will follow.

For more information, please contact Nadya Foty, Faculty Affiliate for the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (nfoty@stmcollege.ca).