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BEAVERBROOK ART GALLERY KINGSTON PORTRAIT PRIZE

Statement by:

The Honourable Patricia Bovey

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

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Hon. Patricia Bovey: Honourable senators, over the past week, I had the distinct honour to be part of two special events in Canada's arts community. I rise to applaud all of those involved — the artists, the boards, the staff and the volunteers.

The first was the opening of the new pavilion at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton. Designed by MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects, this much-needed addition housed an excellent opening installation of their unique collection of Canadian, Maritime and British art.

Also presented was an important solo exhibition of Canadian photographic artist Thaddeus Holownia, as well as a strong local private collection of contemporary art. The indigenous exhibition included major works by First Nations and Metis artists from across Canada, including the northwest coast of B.C., Bob Boyer, late of Saskatchewan, and several young local Aboriginal artists.

The opening event was a community-wide celebration, engaging donors, artists, families, and citizens of all generations. With this addition, their newly announced director, Tom Smart, is well poised to take the gallery onto the international stage, particularly given the strength of their British art.

Beaverbrook's legacy gift, including their spectacular Dali and the significant Graham Sutherland works, recently toured Canada and the U.S. The Beaverbrook Art Gallery owns Canada's only work by world-renowned 20th-century painter Lucien Freud, who, this weekend, was honoured in a special exhibition in Dublin.

The second event took place in Gananoque, the exhibition of this year's Kingston Portrait Prize. This prize is one of the pillars for Canada's potential national portrait gallery. The work was strong, showing the multi-dimensions of portraiture. Speaking on the eve of the exhibition's tour, I was pleased to show several works that hang on Parliament Hill. Volunteers founded and run this biennial exhibition. I herald their dedication, knowledge and commitment.

Yesterday, the People's Choice winners were announced: Leslie Watts for *The Bookseller* and Keita Morimoto for *Aristocrats*. They are insightful, well-executed works. The competition was stiff, and I congratulate the winners.

Saskatoon's new Remai Modern Art Gallery also opened to critical acclaim, and C2, the new joint home of the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library and Manitoba Craft Council opens this weekend, injecting new energy into Winnipeg's vibrant art scene.

As we continue our work in this chamber, I know each of these milestone events will play an increasingly important role in Canada's profile at home and abroad.
