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Wider Symmetries: Moments of Quiet Contemplation

Vancouver, BC – August 27, 2012 – From August 30 through November 12, 2012, the Beaty Biodiversity Museum at UBC presents Wider Symmetries, an exquisite series of watercolour paintings and sketches of birds by New Zealand-born artist Lex Alfred Hedley.

Within this series, Hedley reflects on how important birds are to him, and how they draw him out of an urban world, into very special places where life is slowed down, where there is an entirely different heartbeat.

He shows us how, by their very nature; their beauty, their wildness and desire for distance, birds compel moments of interlude.

He feels that it is in such tranquil moments that his mind best absorbs and reshapes its perceptions of the external world.

“It in these moments of quiet contemplation, that I am moved by those wider symmetries that connect the self and nature; the ebb and flow of the tides, the arrival and departure of migrating birds, the coming and going of the seasons,” says Hedley.

Katie Teed, Marketing Manager of UBC Biodiversity Collections thinks Hedley said it best, “over time, one becomes aware of other, more personal connections and sensations; how sometimes the lives of birds parallel our own, how they connect us to one another and, most importantly, how their presence energizes and renews the human spirit.”

At an early age, Lex Alfred Hedley discovered an ability to sketch and paint birds. He developed these skills throughout his youth in New Zealand, then later on travelled to Europe. In 1989 he came to North America. After years of painting birds and landscapes, and with a more complete understanding of their place in our lives, Hedley is completing his first book.

For more information, please visit www.beatymuseum.ubc.ca

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Images in high resolution are available. Please contact Karen Leung at karen.leung@ubc.ca or 604.762.4908 for more information.