

# First Impressions

Art action across the West this season

## BATES ON TOUR

A touring exhibition of Alberta artist **Maxwell Bates** runs **February 20 to April 18** at the **Edmonton Art Gallery**. *Maxwell Bates: At the Crossroads of Expressionism* explores the development and influence of expressionism in Bates' work. The show includes more than 90 works on loan along with selections of poetry and writing and Bates' *Prisoner of War Notebook*—a hand-written treatise on the role and function of art, written between 1940 and 1945. The exhibition was produced by the EAG with support from the Department of Canadian Heritage Museums. Over the next two years it will tour to the **Nickle Arts Museum** in Calgary, the **Mendel Art Gallery** in Saskatoon and the **Art Gallery of Greater Victoria**.

## CANADIAN ART DATABASE

The Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art (CCCA) maintains an extensive Canadian art database. Founded in 1996 and online a year later, the database is intended to showcase Canadian artists and art writers to a global audience through a growing image and text database and a directory of links to Canadian art websites. The CCCA is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit charitable arts organization based in Toronto. Visit the database at <http://ccca.ca/>.

## RENO PLANS

The City of Saskatoon has given the **Mendel Art Gallery**



**Maxwell Bates: Eroded Land**, oil on canvas, collection of the Edmonton Art Gallery

\$165,000 toward the design cost of its planned \$13-million renovation and expansion. The gallery needs new space for permanent and temporary exhibitions, collection handling and storage and administrative functions along with upgrades to its mechanical and electrical systems. The Mendel is celebrating its 40th anniversary in

2004. The **Vancouver Art Gallery** is also running out of room and in early 2004 plans to announce an architect and consulting team to lead renovation work. Founded in 1931, the VAG moved into its current home, a 165,000-square-foot former provincial courthouse, two decades ago but now the permanent collection of about 8,000 works has outgrown the

**Welcome to Downtown**, at 684 Main Street in Winnipeg, was the city's 2002 Mural of the Year.

space. As well, lighting and elevator systems need repairing and upgrading.

## MURALS WIN

A mural program in Winnipeg has won an innovation award for beautification and community improvement at the 50th annual Keep America Beautiful conference in Washington, DC. Winnipeg competed against six other cities in North America. The city has more than 400 murals on buildings and underpasses, many of them commissioned by Take Pride Winnipeg, which received the award. A half-hour documentary on these murals will air on CKY Television, Winnipeg, **January 11 and 17**. You can also see them on the web at <http://themuralsowinnipeg.com>.

## DUNLOP FIGHTING CLOSURE

The Regina Public Library's sudden closure of the **Dunlop Art Gallery** along with three

