

For Immediate Release  
Comox Valley Art Gallery  
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**Subject:**

New exhibit opens on January 14, 2011: The Art of Robert Bateman – Original Works

Comox Valley Art Gallery announces the first exhibition of our 2011 program, ***The Art of Robert Bateman: Original Works***. This show opens on Friday, January 14th with an artists' reception at 7:30pm, everyone is welcome, light refreshments will be served and the artist will be attending. The exhibit runs from January 15 – February 26th, 2011.

The opening reception is being preceded by an art talk and slide show; Bateman will be discussing the works in the exhibit to explain and show his progress from early/abstract styles to present day realism. At press time, this talk is sold out, as the gallery is a limited seating capacity. Those who would like to meet Bateman can attend the opening reception which begins at 7:30pm.

Bateman is best known for his photorealistic style of painting with subject matter that includes landscapes and environmental scenes, animals from Africa which include elephants, rhinoceroses, antelope, animals from the North such as polar bear, penguins and killer whales and North America, such as elk, lynx and deer. He has also produced a series of bird paintings which have been collected and published in one of his six art books. His works are appreciated for their accuracy and minute illustrative detail, invoking awe and inspiring pictorial artists for decades.

Born in Toronto, with a degree in geography from the University of Toronto, Bateman taught high school for 20 years, including two years in Nigeria. He traveled around the world in a Land Rover in 1957/58, increasing his appreciation of cultural and natural heritage. Since leaving teaching in 1976 to paint full-time, he has traveled widely with his artist/conservationist wife Birgit to many remote natural areas.

Bateman's art reflects his commitment to ecology and preservation. Since the early 1960's, he has been an active member of naturalist and conservation organizations, now on a global scale. He has become a spokesman for many environmental and preservation issues and has used his artwork and limited edition prints in fund-raising efforts that have provided millions of dollars for these worthy causes. He says, "I can't conceive of anything being more varied and rich and handsome than the planet Earth. And its crowning beauty is the natural world. I want to soak it up, to understand it as well as I can, and to absorb it... and then I'd like to put it together and express it in my painting. This is the way I want to dedicate my life." For more on Bateman, please visit [www.robertbateman.ca](http://www.robertbateman.ca).

Comox Valley Art Gallery is located at 580 Duncan in downtown Courtenay. FMI and to view our 2011 art exhibition program, please visit us at [www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com](http://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com), find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).