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**NEW EXHIBITION PAYS TRIBUTE TO TOM THOMSON
ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH**

11 bush-trekking Canadian artists retrace the journeys of one of Canada's greatest painters in a year-long project culminating in new exhibition to premiere September 8

(Toronto, ON – May 30, 2017) – As one of the most celebrated Canadian painters of the twentieth century, Tom Thomson's contributions to Canada's art landscape and impact on some of our country's greatest painters that followed him is indelible. Now, 100 years after his untimely death in 1917, his influence lives on and will be celebrated in an upcoming exhibition titled, ***Untamed Things***, premiering **September 8, 2017 at the Arta Gallery in Toronto's Distillery District**. The exhibition will be the culmination of a yearlong project by 11 acclaimed painters from across Ontario who are retracing Thomson's footsteps through Algonquin Park, as inspiration for their own artistic explorations.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Thomson's death on **July 8**, some of the artists will be plein air painting along Trinity Street in Toronto's Distillery District from **3 – 5pm**. The free public event will pay tribute to Thomson as the artists capture the Distillery District on canvas.

"The fact that the anniversary (of his death) falls on Canada's 150th celebration is fitting, since Thomson played such an important role in establishing the natural beauty of the Canadian wilderness as an important part of our country's identity." **Artist, Jon Houghton**

Reminiscent of the Group of Seven's well-known painting excursions en plein air, the 11 artists are embarking on group painting trips to Algonquin Park this summer to reimagine Thomson's works and the 'untamed' landscapes that inspired him. Algonquin Park looks much as it did over a century ago when Thomson paddled around Canoe, Tea and Smoke Lakes. It was Thomson's passion for the outdoors combined with his sudden death that became the major catalyst in the formation of the now renowned Group of Seven.

"To be in the Park is like stepping into the paintings themselves. You assume that Thomson must have taken some liberties to capture such vibrant colours in his paintings, but it really is authentic to what you see in person. The camaraderie of such a group adventure is what it must have been like back in the days of Tom Thomson and his pals - in what would later form The Group of Seven."

Artist, Lonny Doherty

Following their excursions, the group will debut their original works in the *Untamed Things* exhibition for the public in September. The name of the exhibition, *Untamed Things*, is inspired from an inscription on the memorial plaque in Canoe Lake that describes Thomson as "*the brother of all untamed things in nature*" – which also served as the theme and inspiration to the 11 painters.

“At this point in Canada’s artistic milieu, it serves to remember a single renegade figure whose perseverance and sagacity changed the way several generations of artists perceive their own country and their own art. Memorializing Thomson and his work by showing art inspired by his journey invigorates us as artists but also reminds the viewing public that Thomson is a towering figure in our ever-evolving national artistic landscape.” **Artist, David Marshak**

“Painting plein air in the favourite locations of Thomson brings you closer to his experience as an artist. Thomson was a consummate searcher of light and movement. His later panels inspired many artists to pack up a tent and head into the Canadian bush, all to see what he saw and to endure the struggle of creating an approximate image of what nature throws at you. Tom Thomson will always inspire me and his works are the root of my artistic thinking.” **Artist, Paul Mantrop**

Untamed Things artists include:

Mark Berens	David Marshak	Marten Visser
Lonny Doherty	Paul Nabuurs	Peter Taylor
Jonathan Houghton	Andrew Peycha	Bryan Wall
Paul Mantrop	Rob Saley	

For artists bios go to www.untamedthings.com.

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