



KITCHENER - WATERLOO
ART GALLERY

101 Queen Street North,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6P7
519.579.5860 www.kwag.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2011

This Summer, KW|AG Has the Best of Intentions

KITCHENER, ON - We all mean well - but sometimes good intentions are just not good enough. Jon Sasaki's *Good Intentions* exhibition, on view at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery from Wednesday June 15 through Monday September 5, combines various exercises in futility with a charming and endearing comic sensibility.

Sasaki sees himself as a "romantic conceptualist," always looking on the bright side of things. *Good Intentions* includes four videos and three installations. In the video *A Wound Down Watch Coaxed to Run A Bit Longer (2008)*, we see a malfunctioning watch that is being tapped and prodded into service, before its usefulness finally runs out. In *Cycle (2009)*, the artist is pedaling a bicycle vigorously on a busy street, but despite his best efforts he moves at a glacial pace compared to the other traffic around him. *Crossroads (2009)* is set in Clarksdale, Mississippi, at the highway intersection where legend suggests blues musician Robert Johnson exchanged his soul for the devil, in order to achieve guitar mastery. And *Ladder Climb (2006)*, shot at the CNE Better Living Centre, shows the artist attempting to climb an unsupported ladder that leads to nowhere.

The show also includes *Fly Guy Triggering His Own Motion Sensor (2010)*. This installation consists of a cartoon-like inflated figure, the kind often seen at highway retail locations, waving madly to attract the attention of shoppers. In this instance, the inflatable character encounters considerable difficulty trying to stay aloft.

For the piece *I Want to be Welcome Everywhere, Always (2008 - ongoing)*, the artist collects ceremonial keys to various cities. As part of the installation at KW|AG, he has invited all local municipalities and townships to take part – by inviting the mayor of each township and city in the Region to lend him their ceremonial key to the city. The results of those invitations will be incorporated into the work.

Visitors will also be intrigued by the installation of a newly completed work, an elaborate piece of machinery that results in a slow and modest disbursement of confetti.

Jon Sasaki's practice consists primarily of performance-for-video, objects, installations and interventions that combine humour and pathos. His artwork has been presented in solo exhibitions at 126 (Galway, Ireland), Gallery TPW (Toronto), and The New Gallery (Calgary) and he has participated in recent group exhibitions at VOX (Montreal), the



KITCHENER - WATERLOO
ART GALLERY

101 Queen Street North,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6P7
519.579.5860 www.kwag.ca

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (University of Toronto) and in the 2006 and 2008 editions of Toronto's Nuit Blanche contemporary art festival. He holds a BFA from Mount Alison University in Sackville New Brunswick, and lives and works in Toronto. He is represented by Jessica Bradley Art + Projects.

This exhibition is a collaborative project. The KW|AG version of *Good Intentions* is curated by Crystal Mowry, Curator of Exhibitions & Collections at KW|AG. The project is organized in partnership with the Doris McCarthy Gallery, the Kenderdine Art Gallery, Southern Alberta Art Gallery, MacLaren Art Gallery, Prairie Art Gallery and the Dunlop Art Gallery. Various versions of the exhibition will be viewed at all these locations.

These Galleries also have collaborated on the production of a catalogue, which includes an essay by Crystal Mowry. The catalogue launch takes place at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery on Thursday July 14, in conjunction with an artist talk by Jon Sasaki, at 7:00 p.m., followed by complimentary refreshments. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

The public opening reception for *Good Intentions* takes place Friday June 17, at 7:00 pm, with the artist in attendance. Admission to this event and the exhibition is also free

Media Contact:

Teresa Chiavaroli, Communications Coordinator
519-579-5860 x222
E: tchiavaroli@kwag.on.ca

About the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) connects people and ideas through art. The Gallery emphasizes contemporary art, has a 4,000 work permanent collection and offers experiences for adults, children and families. Established in 1956 and operating within Centre In The Square, KW|AG is the oldest and largest public gallery in Waterloo region: *roots in the community, eyes on the world.*

Gallery Hours and Admission

M-W 9:30am-5pm., T 9:30am.-9pm., F 9:30am-5pm., Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm.
Open before Centre in the Square Performances. For more information: www.kwag.ca

Admission to KW|AG is free courtesy of Sun Life Financial. All are welcome.



**KITCHENER - WATERLOO
ART GALLERY**

101 Queen Street North,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6P7
519.579.5860 www.kwag.ca



Provider of online marketing
and business solutions

WATERLOO REGION
RECORD

Exclusive media partner.



Free admission sponsor.