



KITCHENER - WATERLOO  
ART GALLERY

101 Queen Street North,  
Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6P7  
519.579.5860 [www.kwag.ca](http://www.kwag.ca)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 9, 2011

## Seeing the World in Black and White

The 5<sup>th</sup> KW|AG Biennial, on view at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery from Wednesday, June 15 through Sunday, September 5, provides a forum for viewing the production of contemporary art taking place in Waterloo Region and surrounding counties. The 2011 edition, *The Black and the White: An Allegory of Colour*, curated by Winnipeg-based art critic Robert Enright, showcases work by 11 emerging and established area artists, whose images and sculptures work within a limited, but nonetheless rich, colour palette of black and white, with the occasional strategic appearance of colour in some of the works. Within that narrow palette, the artists have been able to make myriad and dramatic meanings.

Artists represented in this biennial include Ashleigh Bartlett (abstract oil paintings); Hyang Cho (paper sculpture); Susan Dobson (large-scale photographic portraits); Maura Doyle (installation of porcelain bones); Brad Emsley (drawings); Will Gorlitz (oil paintings on wood); Sarah Kernohan (large-scale drawing), Shane Krepakevich (mixed media sculptures); Jenn E. Norton (video), Martin Pearce (abstract paintings) and Ibrahim Rashid (large-scale painting).

KW|AG's Biennial begins with a call for entry from artists in Waterloo Region and the adjacent counties of Perth, Wellington, Oxford, and Brant. From viewing the 83 entries received, guest curator Robert Enright identified a common thread that connects the work of the 11 artists selected, in that their work recognizes the transitory nature of the black and the white.

"When we use the expression, it's black and white", writes Enright, "we speak through a scrim of certainty. We know what we mean; we can easily assign value; we can even remember a time when the words had a moral connotation. But what if the terms are constantly moving, what if their meanings are contingent and provisional, maybe even reversible? What if they are susceptible to all kinds of blur?"

The KW|AG Biennial offers a focused look at what is happening in the region's studios, through the eyes of a guest curator. Robert Enright is the senior contributing editor for *Border Crossings* magazine, and is the University Research Professor in Art Theory and Criticism in the School of Fine Art and Music, University of Guelph, where he teaches in the graduate program. He has contributed essays, introductions and interviews to 60 books and catalogues, and has published more than 200 interviews with contemporary artists in the pages of *Border Crossings*.

Enright presents a curator's talk at KW|AG on Thursday, June 16, 7:00 p.m. The 5<sup>th</sup> KW|AG Biennial opening reception takes place at the Gallery on Friday, June 17, 7:00 p.m.



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The exhibition will be accompanied by a richly-illustrated online catalogue with a feature essay by the curator, available for free download from the Gallery's website, [www.kwag.ca](http://www.kwag.ca)

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**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 select Centre in the Square Performance. Please view our website for current hours. [www.kwag.ca](http://www.kwag.ca)

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



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