

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coffee, soil and squash: A Good-bye to *Product of Eden* at The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery



Mary Catherine Newcomb, *Product of Eden*
2010, squash and brass crowns. Image by
M.Dupuis, courtesy of the artist.

Kitchener, ON - September 27, 2010: Artist Mary Catherine Newcomb's outdoor exhibition *Product of Eden* at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is closing with a good-bye event on October 2nd from 10 a.m. to noon. The event invites neighbors and community members to continue Newcomb's legacy by taking home soil from the exhibition. The bulk of the soil will find new life with Waterloo Region community gardens including the Victoria Hills Multicultural Community Garden.

Visitors can enjoy a cup of coffee, meet the artist, Mary Catherine Newcomb and engage with others who have watched the development of this unique outdoor exhibition in person and through the artist's blog. At 11 a.m. Gallery staff will be on hand to remove the plants and distribute the soil to community members who would like some for their garden and have brought their own containers. All are welcome and admission is free.

About Product of Eden

A temporary installation of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, located at the front entrance of Centre In The Square.

In *Product of Eden 2010* artist Mary Catherine Newcomb explores allegories of knowledge and time in a 400 square foot garden installation outside of the front entrance to the gallery. Over the course of the summer Newcomb nurtured jumbo pink banana squash plants and shaped its fruit into curious infant-like creatures with the use of custom-made moulds. Visitors to the Gallery and the Centre in the Square have stopped by frequently to witness growth and muse over its meaning in Newcomb's provisional Eden.

Mary Catherine Newcomb's sculptural practice has examined the human relationship with narrative, memory and the ephemeral nature of life. With rabbits that wield tools and mythical deer-like creatures that appear to be conjoined at the midsection, Newcomb often employs animal imagery to suggest an understanding of our surroundings that is rich in symbolic and empathetic value. Her sculptures, made of papier mâché, plasticene, and more recently vegetable matter, beg us to search for their mythical origins while remembering the transitional nature of their materiality.

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About Mary Catherine Newcomb

Mary Catherine Newcomb was born in Montreal and received her art education at the University of Waterloo and York University. She has exhibited her work extensively, with recent exhibitions in VOGELFREI' 07 (Darmstadt, Germany), Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery (Waterloo), Rodman Hall Art Centre (St. Catharines) and Oakville Galleries. In February 2010 the Region of Waterloo unveiled Pear Tree, a new sculpture by Newcomb commissioned for the Region's Public Health and Social Services building. Newcomb works and lives in Kitchener.

The artist would like to acknowledge the support of the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund and the K.M. Hunter Foundation.

MARY CATHERINE NEWCOMB PRODUCT OF EDEN 2010

The Product of Eden Blog:
<http://productofeden.wordpress.com/>

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. In 2010 kw|ag launched thier blog: [Free Admission](#).

Gallery Hours: M-W 9:30am-5pm., T 9:30am.-9pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm

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

For more information please contact:
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