



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**  
**April 21, 2011**

**Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery exhibiting artist Althea Thauberger receives the 2011 VIVA Award.**

*March 21, 2011: Kitchener, ON* – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is pleased to recognize the achievement of Canadian artist Althea Thauberger, recently named as one of two recipients of the 2011 VIVA awards. Currently exhibiting *not afraid to die* at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG), Thauberger shares the annual award with Reece Terris. A presentation ceremony takes place May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Presented to a mid-career artist chosen for outstanding achievement and commitment, the VIVA awards are supported by the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation of British Columbia and carry a ten thousand dollar prize. Award winners are selected through juries appointed each year by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation. Since its inception in 1998, the Foundation has awarded 38 VIVA awards.

Co-presented by the Open Ears Festival of Music and Sound, and a part of the Gallery's Singularly Significant Series, KW|AG is exhibiting Thauberger's *not afraid to die* video in the Eastman Gallery until June 5<sup>th</sup>. Visitors to the exhibition are invited to share their perspectives on the Gallery's blog Free-Admission as a part of the *Feedback Loop*, a project initiated by the Gallery and members of the Cultural Studies in Action class from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Vancouver-based artist Althea Thauberger has internationally produced and exhibited work which typically involves collaboration with a group or community. Thauberger gravitates towards groups of people who often exist in some form of social seclusion. Through the constraints inherent in her work, Thauberger illuminates the tension between the coercive and voluntary actions we undertake in our everyday lives. Utilizing almost-exclusively nonprofessional performers such as Canadian tree planters, U.S. military wives and male youth in the German civil service, Thauberger creates complex documents of self-expression and isolation.

Thauberger's work has been commissioned and exhibited by major museums and galleries across the world. In 2009 she participated in the Canadian Forces Artists Program and travelled to the CFB in Kandahar, Afghanistan where she worked on a collaborative photography project with military members there.

*not afraid to die* is on view at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery from March 27-June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Admission is free and all are welcome.



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### Exhibition Details

Althea Thauberger: *not afraid to die*  
March 27 through June 6, 2010  
Free Admission

### About the Singularly Significant Series

The Singularly Significant series features concise projects by artists marking significant developments in contemporary art practice. The Series is designed to provide visitors with a glimpse of otherwise expansive endeavors. Singularly Significant projects allow visitors to experience a digestibly sized exhibition that shows them important, intriguing art projects in a far-from-overwhelming context. Artists previously featured in this series include Evan Penny, Debbie New, Isabella Stefanescu (new work), Alison Norlen (new work), Janet Morton, Allison Hrabluik (new work), Bill Burns, SETH (new work) and Janice Kerbel.

### 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, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm. Open before Centre in the Square Performance.

### Media Contact:

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