



101 Queen Street North
Kitchener, ON
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www.kwag.on.ca



Monica Tap (Canadian, b. 1962), *Road to Lily Dale I*, 2006, oil on canvas, 203 x 251 cm. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, gift of the artist, 2008.

Open House Event Celebrates Milestone & New Community Art Lounge

Kitchener, ON, Canada - The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) invites the public to an **Open House on Monday, April 6, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** in celebration of its permanent collection, the resumption of its collecting mandate, and the Gallery's new Community Art Lounge, the Hub. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

The Open House will celebrate the first donation to the Gallery's permanent collection since the lifting of the acquisitions moratorium. The Gallery is pleased to announce that Toronto-based artist **Monica Tap** is the first artist to donate a work of art under the new policy. On April 6th Tap will be on hand to publically donate her work, *Road to Lily Dale I*, to KW|AG's permanent collection. *Road to Lily Dale I* was created for the *River Grand Chronicles*, a series which invites selected artists to respond through their own artistic practice to the Grand River as either a conceptual or literal figure in visual storytelling. The on-going series, with its frontispiece *River: Grand!*, features contemporary and historical works that are reflective of the river's influence.

Inspired by the first *Chronicles* installment and intrigued by the landscape paintings and spiritualism of Homer Watson, Tap retraced paths frequented by Homer Watson during the late 19th century. Digital video created during her expeditions provided source imagery for her final paintings. *Road to Lily Dale I* and *Road to Lily Dale II* are two of this series of video-based paintings which premiered at KW|AG in the 2007 exhibition, *Monica Tap: séance (River Grand Chronicles #2)*. The newly acquired work, *Road to Lily Dale I*, will be incorporated into exhibitions featuring permanent collection works scheduled within the next two years.

"*Road to Lily Dale I* is a wonderful embodiment of our acquisitions mandate and on-going series which invite artists to create works in response to a key aspect of our regional visual history - in this case, the Grand River," explains Allan MacKay, Curatorial and Collections Consultant, KW|AG. "*Road to Lily Dale I* embraces our region's past and also reflects our current programming and collecting intentions which emphasize works with regional relevance and commissioned works." For more information on the Gallery's collecting policy, you can read our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Similarly, the Gallery's [Parochial Views](#) series was established to invite accomplished artists to respond in their own visual language to content of regional significance. The Open House on April 6th will celebrate the accessioning of five *Parochial Views* works including:

1. Robert Keziere's **Electrified Boot Form from the Kitchener Industrial Artifacts Project, 2005**. Gallery purchase with the support of the Elizabeth L. Gordon Art Program of the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, the City of Kitchener, the City of Waterloo, the Musagetes Fund at the

Gallery Hours:

Mon - Wed 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri - Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun 1 - 5 p.m.



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Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, and the Canada Council for the Arts, 2005.

2. Geoffrey James' **New Jerusalem Road, Region of Waterloo, October 2003 (2003)**. Gallery purchase with the assistance of the Elizabeth L. Gordon Art Program of the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, the City of Kitchener, the City of Waterloo, the Musagetes Fund at the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, and the Canada Council for the Arts, 2005.
3. Shelley Niro's **BELOVED, ADMIRER, REVERED Pride Day at Victoria Park, June 4, 2006 (2006)**. Supported by the City of Kitchener, the City of Waterloo, and the Musagetes Fund at the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, 2006.
4. Scott Conarroe's **Model Boat Club, Pool at Kitchener City Hall, 2006 (2006)**. Gallery purchase with the support of the City of Kitchener, the City of Waterloo, the Musagetes Fund at the Kitchener, and Waterloo Community Foundation, and the Canada Council for the Arts, 2007.
5. Guy Maddin's **Berlin (2007)**. Gallery purchase with the assistance of the City of Kitchener, the City of Waterloo, and the Canada Council for the Arts, 2008.

Visit the Gallery's New Community Art Lounge

The Open House is also an opportunity for the public to engage in the Gallery's new community art lounge, **the Hub**. Located in the Gallery's foyer, the Hub will be a community resource where visitors can view the 4 000-work permanent collection through an online library and photo gallery database. Because of space restrictions, only limited works from the permanent collection can be viewed in the Gallery spaces by visitors. The new online database makes the extensive collection, held in trust by the Gallery for the community, more accessible for research, viewing and personal enjoyment.

"The Gallery's permanent collection is an invaluable gift to the whole community, a source of pride and inspiration, and a wonderful record of our cultural history and diversity within this Region," says Cindy Wayvon, Curatorial Assistant and Registrar, KW|AG. "The Gallery has worked diligently to preserve the works, showcase them in our exhibitions whenever possible to give them visibility, and make them readily accessible to the community through our collections database. The database has also become a critical tool when we develop our permanent collection exhibitions and produce featured Art of the Month selections on the Gallery's web site."

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ART GALLERY**

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About the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

Through thoughtful and engaging programs, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) connects people and ideas through art. The Gallery's exhibits and programs are built on the mission that art is the catalyst for shared experience, dialogue and imagination. The Gallery emphasizes contemporary art, often premiering works by Canadian and international artists. Exhibitions frequently draw upon selections from the 4 000 work Permanent Collection to provide a forum for dialogue. KW|AG plays a vital educational role in the community, offering a full spectrum of artistic experience for adults, children and families alike. 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. For more information, contact mail@kwag.on.ca or visit www.kwag.on.ca.

Media Contact

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In addition to new computer viewing stations, the lounge will include a flat screen television, DVD player, and headsets for enjoying exhibition-related films and videos; a library of selected art publications, videos and resources; and new lounge furniture. The lounge will also feature new complementary wall colours and visuals that instantly welcome visitors to the Gallery.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is grateful to the following sponsors who have made the community art lounge project possible: The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation's Community Fund, the Erb & Good Family Funeral Home Community Fund held at The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, the Rotary Club of Kitchener-Conestoga, the Rotary Club of Waterloo, the Rotary Club of Kitchener, the Lion's Club of Kitchener, and the J.P. Bickell Foundation.

"The Gallery is an inspiring, welcoming third space - that is, a social space that isn't your home or workplace - where you are encouraged to share your reflections and learning experiences with others," explains Alf Bogusky, Director General, KW|AG. "We invite everyone to engage in the resources that the lounge will offer. On behalf of the Gallery's Board of Directors and administration, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to our community partners for making this project a reality."

Current and Upcoming Permanent Collection Events

- *Wild Things: A Bestiary Assembled From KW|AG's Permanent Collection* - featuring animal imagery of all types that have persisted in the imagination of artists throughout the ages. On view until Sept 11, 2009.
- *Expressions 34: A Celebration of Student Art from the Region of Waterloo*, March 28 - May 3, 2009.
- Works from the collection can also be seen around the Region regularly at Centre In The Square, Perimeter Institute, Homer Watson Gallery, the City of Kitchener and include the sculptural works on the Gallery and Centre In The Square grounds.

Additional Resources

[Media Release: Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Restores Its Collecting Mandate >](#)
[Collecting Mandate Frequently Asked Questions >](#)

For more information about the Gallery's Open House, call 519.579.5860.

Connecting people and ideas through art.