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Installation view of *Tear Down This Fence* (foreground) and Daniela Braham's work (background). Image courtesy the artists and KW|AG. Photo: Robert McNair.



Seiple's *Tear Down This Fence* video (detail). Image courtesy the artists and KW|AG. Photo: Robert McNair.



Detail of *Tear Down This Fence* video. Video courtesy the artist.

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Connecting people and ideas through art.

Building Berlin Commemorates Fall of Berlin Wall

Kitchener, ON, Canada – Today marks the 20th anniversary of the historic fall of the Berlin Wall representing the collapse of totalitarianism in Central and Eastern Europe and the reunification of Germany and Europe. Anniversary celebrations under the banner “*Sites of the New Berlin: 20 years of Change*” will be happening in Berlin today including special ceremonies at government buildings and foreign embassies, with art exhibitions exploring the dynamic developments in Berlin since the wall’s collapse.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is celebrating the anniversary with its *Building Berlin* exhibition which examines issues that are important in today’s Berlin, by eleven artists who live and work there. For example, artist Daniel Seiple’s *Tear Down This Fence!* project recalls the famous challenge from US President Ronald Reagan to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall”. Seiple is interested in the effect of Kitchener-Waterloo’s seamless border on the citizens who live along the divide. He interviewed local residents and invited anyone living along the border to tear down his/her fence as a symbol of change. The *Tear Down This Fence* installation at the Gallery includes video footage of both the residents he interviewed and the dismantling of a local fence, as well as the physical remains of the fence.

“Daniel’s project is a small-scale reminder of a historical event. The effort to connect with an unfamiliar community and shine a light on neighbour relations is a significant part of Daniel’s project for KW|AG,” explains Crystal Mowry, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections. “Through his video interviews and installation, Daniel offers a visible representation of a border that is largely invisible and seemingly arbitrary. Blurred boundaries, migration and invisibility are themes that run through all of the works in *Building Berlin*. Daniel’s work provides an effective entry point into these ideas.”

Additional [exhibition information](#) >
More about the [Tear Down This Fence project](#) >
Read Seiple’s [invitation to K-W citizens](#) >

Building Berlin includes work by artists Nevin Aladag, Daniela Brahm, Rui Calçada Bastos, Jesko Fezer and Axel Wieder, Pia Fuchs (German ID of Patricia Reed), Ingo Gerken, Thom Kubli, Lars Ramberg, Karin Sander and Daniel Seiple. The exhibition is on view until January 23, 2010. Admission to the Gallery is free and everyone is welcome. [Gallery hours](#) >

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