



KITCHENER - WATERLOO
ART GALLERY

spotlight: Join KW|AG in Ontario's First *spOtlight: Celebrate our Artists Weekend*

May 20, 2008 - *Kitchener, Ontario, Canada* - The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) is excited to play an integral part in the province's first *spOtlight: Celebrate our Artists Weekend!* on June 7-8th. Please join us in celebrating our artists, past and present, from a unique perspective through four KW|AG events:

1. Behind-the-Scenes Permanent Collection Tours

**Sat, June 7; Tours begin at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3 p.m. ; Pre-registration not required; Tours approx 45 mins. in length
FREE**

Join us for a free tour of KW|AG's permanent collection:

- Discover awe-inspiring works, by world renowned local artists such as Homer Watson and Ken Danby, and the great masters including Salvadore Dali, Picasso, and the Group of Seven.
- Learn which local artist makes up 1/8 of the Gallery's 4 000 work collection, and was one of the founding members of the Gallery.
- Understand why, since 1981, KW|AG's collection vaults have grown from one to five.
- View the most valuable works, and the largest and most challenging piece to store in KW|AG's collection.
- Learn how digitally-based artworks represent an important shift in collecting for the Gallery.

"The tour of the Gallery's permanent collection offers a rare opportunity to view important works that are a visual record of this Region's evolving culture and heritage," explains Cindy Wayvon, Registrar and Curatorial Assistant, KW|AG. "During the tour, the public will have the opportunity to view a wide array of works and better understand the standards necessary for maintaining and preserving our rich cultural history."

2. Exhibition Tours

**Sat, June 7; Tours begin at 12 p.m. or 2 p.m.; Pre-registration not required; Tours approx 1 hour in length
Exhibition tours are included with the price of admission to *The Grand National*; \$6 for adults; \$2 for children (ages 6 – 12); and \$5 for groups of 20 or more registered in advance.**

Take an in-depth look at KW|AG's current exhibitions through a tour with a trained Gallery guide (docent):



Gallery Docent Grace Johnstone leads a tour of the *Expressions 33* exhibition on April 28. Photo: K. J. Bedford, KW|AG.

- Learn about the Gallery's engagement with diverse artists through the presentation of existing works and KW|AG specific projects.
- Enjoy Janet Morton's *Better Homes and Gardens* exhibition which uses knitting and crocheting on a massive scale. Come and see *Overgrown* - a flowering white vine, with knitted tendrils and various pieces of plastic waste, which creeps and clings along the red walls of the Eastman Gallery.
- Take in *The Grand National* quilt exhibition which celebrates the beauty and creativity of quilt-making with over 60 quilts on display from artists across Canada.

3. Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony at KW|AG Sat, June 7; 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE

Join us in KW|AG's foyer from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to hear a selection of light, classical music by a string ensemble from the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

4. *Celebrate Our Young Artists* Exhibition at CIGI (Centre for International Governance Innovation), 57 Erb Street West, Waterloo, ON; www.cigionline.org Sat, June 7 & Sun, June 8; 1-5 p.m.; Pre-registration not required FREE (Exhibition also on view from Mon, June 2 to Mon, June 16, Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

KW|AG will participate in CIGI's (Centre for International Governance Innovation) *Community Open House* (in partnership with the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery) showcasing approximately twenty works from the *Expressions 33* exhibition. *Expressions* is an annual exhibition, sponsored by Manulife Financial, which combines student artwork from Waterloo Region with examples from KW|AG's permanent collection. For the *Celebrate Our Young Artists* exhibition at CIGI, students' works, which explore interpretations of the theme "Our World, Our Community and Ourselves", will be on display in CIGI's lobby. Tying in with this exhibition, on Sunday, June 8 from 3:20-3:35 p.m., Tasha Ethelston, Director of Public Programs and Education, KW|AG, will discuss how experimenting through art making, even at an early age, fosters risk-taking, creativity and problem-solving skills.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, CIGI's Community Relations and Events Manager says, "As a community-minded organization, CIGI is pleased to show its support of the arts community and the integral role of art in



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community-building by showcasing this exhibition of budding artistic talent from students across the Region. We welcome the community to our venue to view this fine exhibition."

For more information about *spOtlight: Celebrate our Artists Weekend!*, visit the Government of Ontario web site at <http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/about/n280208.htm>. To learn more about KW|AG's involvement, please refer to the media contact information below.

About spOtlight: Celebrate our Artists Weekend!

Last spring the government of Ontario announced the Status of the Ontario's Artists Act, which acknowledges the impact that artists have on the Ontario economy and quality of life. The Act includes a commitment by the government to promote the importance of the arts to towns and cities across Ontario, and designated the first weekend in June as *spOtlight: Celebrate our Artists Weekend!* The Ontario Arts Council, with support from the Ministry of Culture, is launching the first *spOtlight: Celebrate our Artists Weekend!* in Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph, and Stratford. As part of its mission, *Celebrate Our Artists* offers a unique opportunity for local communities to explore the creative processes of the performing (theatre, music, dance) and visual/media arts through tours, lectures, and workshops held by local institutions and community artists.

About CIGI

CIGI (The Centre for International Governance Innovation) is a think tank that addresses international governance challenges and provides informed advice to decision-makers on multilateral governance issues. CIGI supports research initiatives by recognized experts and promising academics; forms networks that link world-class minds across disciplines; informs and shapes dialogue among scholars, opinion leaders, key policy-makers and the concerned public; and builds capacity by supporting excellence in policy-related scholarship. CIGI was founded in 2002 by Jim Balsillie, co-CEO of RIM (Research In Motion), and collaborates with and gratefully acknowledges support from a number of strategic partners, in particular the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. For more information, please visit www.cigionline.org.

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.

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Connecting people and ideas through art.

