



101 Queen Street North
Kitchener, ON
N2H 6P7
www.kwag.on.ca



Crystal Mowry, KW|AG's new Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, effective May 1, 2007. Photo: K.J. Bedford.



Allan Harding MacKay, KW|AG's current Collections and Curatorial Consultant (2001- April 30, 2008). Photo: K.J. Bedford.

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.

Curatorial Changes Announced at KW|AG

Kitchener, ON, Canada – Curatorial changes at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) will see Allan Harding MacKay, the Gallery's current Collections and Curatorial Consultant, relinquishing his position at KW|AG to focus on his artistic practice full-time, and the appointment of Crystal Mowry as the new Curator of Exhibitions and Collections. Beginning Friday, May 1, 2007, Mowry will assume responsibility for overseeing the management of the Gallery's exhibitions and Permanent Collection. MacKay joined the Gallery in 2001, and Mowry has served as Curatorial Assistant and then Assistant Curator since 2005.

The Gallery has made significant progress under MacKay's artistic direction, as evidenced by increased support from the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council, which use a peer-review process to allocate funds. During his tenure, operating grants from these sources has escalated from \$17 500 to \$187 000 annually. His curatorial leadership has resulted in a thought-provoking series of exhibitions that has shaped KW|AG's vision, and heightened the Gallery's presence regionally, nationally and internationally. MacKay is the recipient of numerous artist grants and awards, most recently, the K-W Arts Award for Visual Arts. The public is invited to attend a special evening to honour his contributions to the Gallery, which will take place in April. Please check the Gallery web site in late March for more details.

"I am very pleased that Crystal has been appointed as the Gallery's new Curator of Exhibitions and Collections. Her understanding of KW|AG's vision and programming, as well as her curatorial knowledge and direction will be a great asset to the Gallery," said MacKay. "Crystal and the Curatorial team have created unique exhibitions that have improved access to the Gallery's Permanent Collection. Her congenial manner when working with colleagues at the Gallery and in the arts community is well noted by her peers, as is her breadth of knowledge of contemporary arts practice locally and internationally. I wish her well in this new position which will give her additional opportunities for continued growth and success."

Mowry graduated with a Masters of Fine Arts from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University (NSCAD). She is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto, Ontario, where she majored in sculpture and installation. Before being appointed Assistant Curator, she was Curatorial Assistant at KW|AG from 2005 to 2006. She also worked as a Programming Associate at YZ Artists' Outlet, Toronto, and in the Fine and Media Arts Division at NSCAD. Mowry has worked under MacKay's direction as Assistant Curator for the past four years at KW|AG. She has co-curated numerous exhibitions, and more recently curated Kelly Richardson's *Forest Park* (Jan 11 - Mar 23, 2008), Janet Morton's *Better Homes and Gardens* (May 9 - July 6, 2008), and Adriana Kuiper's *Over-neath* (July 11-Sept 7, 2008).

"On behalf of Gallery staff and the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Allan for his innovative programming and vision. He has provided



**KITCHENER - WATERLOO
ART GALLERY**

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Media Contact

Tracy Smith
Communications Coordinator
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery
101 Queen Street North
Kitchener, Ontario N2H 6P7
tsmith@kwag.on.ca
519.579.5860 X222

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a framework for the development of projects that engage new artists, which Crystal is eager to explore. He will be greatly missed. We wish him continued success and look forward to the unveiling of his upcoming public commissions," said Alf Bogusky, Director General, KW|AG.

MacKay's recent public art projects include a series of related art installations at Activa Sportsplex at 135 Lennox Lewis Way in Kitchener. He is in the process of developing a sculptural installation at Speaker's Corner at the corner of Benton and Frederick Streets, which will be unveiled in fall 2009. His new series of approximately 100 digital mixed media works will populate Toronto's Pape Subway station, which is scheduled for completion in 2010. MacKay will also be included in exhibitions throughout 2009 in Kleinburg, Toronto, Moose Jaw and Waterloo.

"It is with equal pleasure that we welcome Crystal in her new role as Curator of Exhibitions and Collections," says Bogusky. "Crystal has proven herself more than capable of taking on this role through her involvement in KW|AG's exhibitions since 2005. Her contributions as a curator and contemporary artist have forged new relationships with artists and institutions locally and abroad resulting in new works being shown at the Gallery."

"The romantic notion of art being separate from everyday life doesn't have the same resonance it had in the last century," explains Crystal Mowry. "The notion of the gallery as a 'site of exchange' is really important to me. Inviting collaboration and encouraging exchange are key to what we do here. The prospect of developing new projects and relationships that show both the variety and complexity of artistic practice is incredibly exciting to me. I would like to encourage gallery visitors and collaborators to consider art as necessity."

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.

Connecting people and ideas through art.