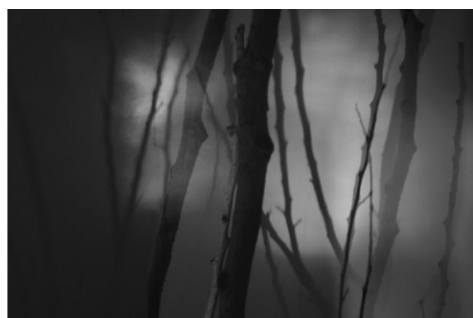




101 Queen Street North
Kitchener, ON
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Phil Irish, *Annotated Reservoir* (detail), 2009, mixed media on paper, 152 cm x 86 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.



Susan Coolen, *Grand Shadows Series No. 1*, 2009. DVD projection. Image courtesy of the artist.

Gallery Hours

Daily 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thurs 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sun 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

New Exhibitions Premiere Work By Local Artists Irish, Coolen and Paleczny

Phil Irish: *Watershed* (*River Grand Chronicles #6*)
Susan Coolen: *Grand Shadows* (*River Grand Chronicles #7*)
Catherine Paleczny: *Sumos Quod Sumus*

May 15 - July 5, 2009

Organized by KW|AG

Opening Public Reception: Friday, May 22, 7 to 9 p.m.

Artist Talk with Phil Irish: Wednesday, June 3, 7 p.m.

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada – A new group of exhibitions premiering work by local artists Phil Irish, Susan Coolen, and Catherine Paleczny will open at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) on Friday, May 15th with a public reception on Friday, May 22 from 7-9 p.m.

Elora artist Phil Irish and Kitchener-based artist Susan Coolen will offer the sixth and seventh installments of the Gallery's *River Grand Chronicles*, a series that presents contemporary projects with a strong connection to the Grand River environs, and casts the river as either a conceptual or literal figure in visual storytelling.

Elora artist **Phil Irish's** paintings, in *Watershed*, reflect on places around the Grand River including Shand Dam, Luther Marsh and Byng Island using hand-drawn maps from diverse groups of people. The maps sketch out places of personal significance for others, becoming a sort of narrative, and annotated guide that Irish uses to personally visit the sites. Attuned to his own experiences of the sites and those of his map collaborators, Irish uses these "points of tension and confluence between two different points of view" to create his paintings. A lifeguard's account of saving a girl's life, a believer's account of baptism, and a young couple on the cusp of a new relationship are just a few of the narratives Irish draws from the river. In *Watershed*, the river is cast as a metaphor for transition and renewal – an essential way of looking at our evolving landscape today.

In *Grand Shadows*, **Susan Coolen** approaches the subject of the river using her interest in taxonomy and photography. The multimedia installation combines photographic light works, large projections and small video works, all incorporating imagery drawn from her expeditions to the Grand River during the four seasons.

"I percolated on the feel of the visual tangle of light and shadow, lines and forms of the river's edge environment, and to the sounds of the often invisible presence of its flowing waters," explains Coolen.

KW|AG has also commissioned Susan Coolen to create the sixth installment in the [Parochial Views](#) series, *Parlance No. 4*, which can be seen in the Spring 2009 issues of [Border Crossings](#) and [Canadian Art](#) magazines.

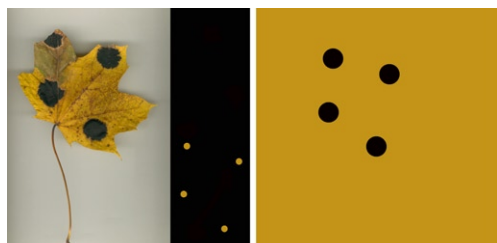


**KITCHENER - WATERLOO
ART GALLERY**

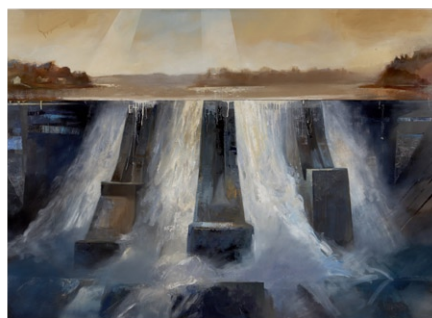
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Catherine Paleczny, *Uden Title* (detail), 2008, stone-ware, each component approx. 18 x 9 x 9 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.



Susan Coolen, *Parlance No. 4*, 2008, archival gicleé prints, total diptych size 60" x 30".



Phil Irish, *Contain and Release*, 2009. Oil on panel, 170 cm x 240 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.

Waterloo artist **Catherine Paleczny's** exhibition, *Sumos Quod Sumos*, is comprised of amorphous ceramic objects that summon images of barnacle encrusted relics dredged from the bottom of a river. Each object, although crafted as an ambiguous, individual form, is integrated into a collective and perceived as part of a larger shape. This relationship between the part and the whole, known as synecdoche, is a conceptual preoccupation of Paleczny's. Her "swarms" speak of movement, repetition, spatial tension, and search for order and belonging in the world around us. An online publication of *Sumos Quod Sumos*, featuring text by Shelley Thomas, will be available at www.kwag.ca when the show opens on May 15th.

Watershed, *Grand Shadows* and *Sumos Quod Sumos* are on view from May 15 until July 5, 2009. *Wild Things: A Bestiary Assembled From KW|AG's Permanent Collection*, in KW|AG's corridor gallery, explores animal imagery and is on view until September 6, 2009.

Admission to the exhibitions is free; everyone is welcome. For further exhibition details, visit www.kwag.ca or call 519.579.5860.

About the Artists

Based in Elora, **Phil Irish** received a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art and English Literature from the University of Guelph in 1995. He has exhibited across Canada and the United States, most notably at Oakville Galleries, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery, and in *La Manif d'Art 4*, Quebec City's biennial.

Born in Halifax, **Susan Coolen** studied at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Concordia University, and Columbia College (Chicago). Her work has been included in solo and group exhibits in Canada and abroad. Notable exhibitions include *Beyond Science* at Metrònom in Barcelona, *Shifting Sites* at the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, and *Sphere* at Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver. She divides her time between Kitchener and Montreal.

Catherine Paleczny lives and works in Waterloo. Her diverse education includes studies in art and science at the University of Waterloo, the Alberta College of Art and Design, the University of Calgary, and other institutions. Paleczny has exhibited her work nationally and internationally and participated in numerous residencies around the world.

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



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Catherine Paleczny, *ren zao bao zi* (detail), 2007, porcelain, 22 x 15 x 16 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.



Susan Coolen, *Untitled*, 2009. DVD projection. Image courtesy of the artist.



Phil Irish, *Water Wheel*, 2008, mixed media, 100 cm x 110 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.

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.ca.

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