

Knitted Sculptural Works Invite Viewers to Come Closer and Savour Their Details

May 2, 2008 - *Kitchener, Ontario, Canada* - Janet Morton's *Better Homes and Gardens*, a new exhibition at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, showcases knitted works that are immense in size but made up of fascinatingly minute details.



IMAGE: **Janet Morton**, *Overgrown*, 2007, mixed media, installation dimensions vary. Image courtesy of the artist and Paul Petro Contemporary Art.

From May 9 - July 6, visitors can enjoy Morton's sculptural works that employ popular craft techniques such as knitting and crocheting on an often massive scale. Just as the Gallery's complementary exhibition, *The Grand National*, explores the notion of time, the works featured in Morton's *Better Homes and Gardens* suggest a relationship between time and labour. In the installation titled *Overgrown*, a flowering white vine, with knitted tendrils and various pieces of plastic waste, creeps and clings along the walls of the Eastman Gallery. Although *Overgrown* is dramatic in size, the knitted vine and interwoven elements invite viewers to come closer and examine them in detail.

Overgrown is accompanied by knitted models of homes that Morton has lived in over her lifetime. In contrast to the spectacular size of *Overgrown*, the knitted houses are small and monochromatic, and once again, encourage participants to move in close to savour the details in their making.

Alongside these works are a few selected images documenting Morton's work, *Cozy* (1999), an awe-inspiring, enormous knitted cover for a house on Toronto's Ward Island.

Morton's *Better Homes and Gardens* installation is part of KW|AG's *Singularly Significant* series which features concise projects by artists marking significant developments in contemporary art practice. Morton's work invites participants to ponder how they spend their time, and where they place their values.



IMAGE: **Janet Morton**, *Red Brick Classic*, 2007. Image courtesy of the artist and Paul Petro Contemporary Art.



KITCHENER - WATERLOO
ART GALLERY

About the Artist

Janet Morton currently lives in Guelph, ON. She has been exhibiting nationally and internationally since 1992. She has received numerous awards for her textile-based work. Morton has produced a number of ambitious outdoor installations, most recently with the inclusion of her work, *Femmebomb*, in Toronto's Nuit Blanche event (2007). She is represented by Paul Petro Contemporary Art in Toronto and her work can be seen on the Canadian Centre for Contemporary Art web site at www.ccca.ca.

Exhibition Details

Janet Morton: *Better Homes and Gardens*

Singularly Significant Series

May 9 - July 6, 2008

Public Opening: Friday, May 9, 7-9 p.m.; Opening Remarks: 7:20 p.m.

Free admission

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

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

Connecting people and ideas through art.