



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



KC Adams, *Cyborg Hybrid David* (actor). SAVAGE. Banff Series, 2005, digital print, 63.5 x 84 cm. Image courtesy of the artist and Carleton University Art Gallery.



Eric Robertson, *Untitled*, 2007, aluminium, cable, paint, 287 x 176 cm. Image courtesy of the artist and Carleton University Art Gallery. Photo: David Barbour.

Gallery Holiday Hours

We look forward to seeing you at the Gallery over the holiday season!

Wed, Dec 24: 10-5
Christmas Day - closed
Boxing Day - closed
Sat, Dec 27: 10-5
Sun, Dec 28: 1-5
Dec 29 -31: 10-5
New Year's Day - closed

Defining Canada's Identity Through Art

ANTHEM: Perspectives on Home and Native Land

January 16 - March 22, 2009

Artists: KC Adams, FASTWÜRMS, Cynthia Girard, Dana Inkster, Alisdair MacRae, Shirley Moorhouse, Eric Robertson

Organized by Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa

Curated by Ryan Rice

Opening Public Reception: Friday, January 16, 7 to 9 p.m.

Artist Talk with Ryan Rice: Thursday, January 15, 7 p.m.

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada – How a diverse nation defines its nationhood and identity is at the heart of a new exhibition at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) opening on Friday, January 16.

ANTHEM: Perspectives on Home and Native Land includes multimedia art work that incorporates historical narratives, songs, photographs, video and paintings by eight Canadian artists in response to the idea of nationhood and what it means to belong in and to Canada. Curated by Ryan Rice during his two-year residency at Carleton University, the exhibition presents visual expressions of “our home and native land” and confronts boundaries perpetuated by stereotypes, racism and intolerance.

Rice began the project with the notion of the national anthem as a symbol of civil liberties and the varied historical and present-day experiences of Aboriginals, Euro-Canadians, and immigrants. In the catalogue for the exhibition, Rice explains that “nationhood as constructed by a national anthem is too homogeneous; the patriotism that it suggests overlooks the actual diversity of a nation.”

The eight artists, from differing cultural backgrounds and geographic regions across Canada, bring their personal stories to the work on view:

Winnipeg artist **KC Adams's** photo series, *Cyborg Hybrids*, challenges stigmas placed on mixed races. Her work has been reviewed in *Border Crossings*, *Galleries West*, *Fuse*, *Blackflash*, and *Canadian Dimensions*.

Eric Robertson (Port Moody) and **Shirley Moorhouse** (Labrador) address the environment and Aboriginal people's traditional role of stewards of land and water. Robertson, a former Department of Fisheries Officer, examines Canada's depletion of natural resources. Moorhouse, an Inuk artist, creates wall hangings that overflow with narratives by Inuit peoples living off the land, sharing lessons that resonate across generations.

FLAG, another work on view, is by the poly-disciplinary artist collective **FASTWÜRMS**. FASTWÜRMS is comprised of husband and wife team Kim Kozzi and Dai Skuse, who teach at the University of Guelph's School of Fine Art and Music. Visitors are invited to sit and talk in green woven lawn chairs and take Wiccan *FLAG* paraphernalia to build awareness of



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Shirley Moorhouse, *The Brass Ring*, 2004, black stroud, fur, beads, hide, metal, found materials, silk, rayon, wool, nylon, 111 x 55.5 cm. Image courtesy of the artist and Carleton University Art Gallery. Photo: David Barbour.



FASTWÜRMS, *Flag*, 2007, mixed-media installation, 492 x 610 x 116.5 cm. Image courtesy of the artists and Carleton University Art Gallery. Photo: David Barbour.



Alisdair MacRae, *The African-American Spiritual*, 2007, mixed-media installation, 227.5 x 447 x 610 cm (dimensions variable). Image courtesy of the artist and Carleton University Art Gallery. Photo: David Barbour.

“otherness” through social exchange.

The African American Spiritual by **Alisdair MacRae** (Dawson Creek) expresses hope and freedom for marginalized peoples, while *The Art Of Autobiography*, a video work by artist **Dana Inkster** (Lethbridge), investigates adoptees’ search for belonging and the complexities of unearthing one’s identity.

Through iconic symbols and humour, Quebec artist **Cynthia Girard**, explores how nation-building endeavours have shaped the province of Quebec.

“*ANTHEM* is about community, about broadening notions of community and about tolerating the expansion or contraction of ideas of our society by locating and negotiating our relationship to space (native land), to place (home), and to others around us. The eight artists taking part in *ANTHEM* articulate their experiences and unique perspectives to honestly critique the construct of homogeneity, in order for diversity and distinctiveness to become empowering mechanisms that will further refine the concept of nation,” writes Rice.

ANTHEM: Perspectives on Home and Native Land is on view from January 15 until March 22, 2009. *Wild Things: A Bestiary Assembled From KW|AG’s Permanent Collection*, in KW|AG’s corridor gallery, explores animal imagery that has persisted in the imagination of artists throughout the ages.

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

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

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