



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

From Birdcalls to Bunkers: Summer Exhibitions Offer Unique Perspectives

Kitchener, ON, Canada - The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) features new work by four Canadian contemporary artists for the summer exhibitions running from July 11 through to September 7th. The public is invited to attend the exhibition opening on Friday, July 11th from 7 to 9 p.m. with opening remarks at 7:20 p.m.

Bill Burns' Exhibition Takes Birding to a Whole New Level

In the Eastman Gallery is Bill Burns' multimedia exhibition *Bird Radio*. Organized by KW|AG and co-presented by the Doris McCarthy Gallery at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (UTSC), *Bird Radio* is part of KW|AG's *Singularly Significant* series featuring concise projects marking significant developments in contemporary art practice.

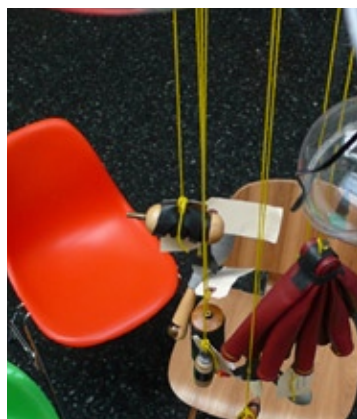
Bird Radio is a continuation of Bill Burns' curious work on animals, plants and safety. The exhibition focuses closely on strategies of mimicry and the authority attached to schematic diagrams. Gallery visitors are invited to activate a "chandelier" of jerry-rigged birdcalls that transmits the sound of birdcalls outside of the gallery space. A video of children demonstrating various birdcalls, and large illustrations that explain how to operate *Bird Radio* are also part of the exhibition. *Bird Radio - Vogelradio*, an artist's book produced in tandem with the project, is published by KW-ICA (Berlin); KW|AG (Kitchener, ON); and Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König (Köln) in 2007.

The public is invited to attend an **Artist Talk with Bill Burns** on Thursday, August 7 at 7 p.m. at the Gallery.

KW|AG proudly acknowledges Unitron Hearing as the sponsor of this exhibition.

Adriana Kuiper Examines Storm Shelters as Creative Refuge

Adriana Kuiper's *Over-neath* features sculptures and drawings that are reminiscent of storm and bomb shelters common during the Cold War, but they are assembled from ordinary materials readily available in today's hardware stores. *Over-neath* offers an imaginative counterpoint to the search for shelter below ground. According to the artist, Adriana Kuiper, "If such shelters recently seem outmoded, renewed fears of invasion, and heightened notions of fear have prompted me to look more closely at these 'impenetrable' structures. As spaces built with security and survival in mind, they seem barely hospitable, and provide only minimal hope. I am interested in the psychological and social aspects of these spaces which are part of a common imaginary, but whose claustrophobic environments are removed from most people's experiences."



Bill Burns, *Bird Radio*, 2007, mixed media installation, dimensions vary. Image courtesy of the artist.



Adriana Kuiper, selection from the *Help* series, 22" x 32", mixed media. Image courtesy of the artist.

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.
Open Civic Holiday, Mon Aug 4 10-5
Open Labour Day, Mon Sept 1 10-5



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Cora Cluett, *In The Offing No.7*, 2008, C-print, 24" x 36". Image courtesy of the artist and Wynick/Tuck Gallery.



Scott Conarroe, *Parochial Views No. 4: Model Boat Club*, Pool at Kitchener City Hall, 2006, photograph. Gallery purchase with the assistance of the City of Kitchener, the City of Waterloo, the Musagetes Fund at The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, and the Acquisition Assistance program of the Canada Council for the Arts, 2007.

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Cluett and Conarroe Offer a Multitude of Perspectives Through *Apertura*

Borrowing its name from the Latin word for opening, *Apertura* brings together new photographic and video work from Cora Cluett and Scott Conarroe that pivots on the notion of aperture or "opening" as both a literal and conceptual device.

Cora Cluett's series of photographs titled *In The Offing* document the Nova Scotian and Scottish landscapes through the remnants of the W.W.II pillboxes and bunkers which line their coasts. Coastlines are often sites of transition, traffic, and militarization. The title, *In The Offing*, refers to an old nautical term describing the outermost visible edge of the sea. *In The Offing* also means "the not-too-distant future", and the paradox of something being both away from you and coming towards you at the same time. Cluett uses the pillbox lookout to frame and isolate sections of the landscape, inviting the viewer to consider a multitude of perspectives.

The public is invited to attend an **Artist Talk with Cora Cluett** on Wednesday, July 23 at 7 p.m. at the Gallery.

Scott Conarroe's photographic and video work has special significance for residents of Kitchener. *Plaza*, a 2-channel video projection, casts the fountain in front of Kitchener City Hall as a contemporary suburban version of the Impressionist masterpiece *La Grande Jatte* by Georges Seurat. The video is a combination of vignettes that compete for our attention, and reveals an interest in atmospheric occurrences of light and a precise bird's-eye-view perspective. Conarroe's photographs of small-town sites of leisure are captured through long exposures and include *Model Boat Club*, a photograph commissioned for KW|AG's *Parochial Views* series. An online publication featuring an essay by Robert Bean and full colour images will also be available on the Gallery web site at www.kwag.on.ca.

About the Artists

Bill Burns was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, and currently lives in Toronto. His work concerning drugs, animals and safety has been published and exhibited widely including solo projects at Wellcome Trust, London, England; Kunst-Werke-ICA, Berlin; and the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, England. His *Safety Gear for Small Animals* exhibition, organized by the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, (MOCCA) Toronto and Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Owen Sound, toured to nine locations including the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge; California State University-Fullerton, Los Angeles; and Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. His drawings, books, multiples and photographs are included in numerous collections including at the Tate Britain in London, the MoMA in New York, MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina and the Getty Center in Los Angeles.



KITCHENER - WATERLOO
ART GALLERY

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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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Adriana Kuiper is an installation artist whose work currently explores versions of hidden architectural structures meant to provide safety from extreme forces, natural and otherwise. Her work has been shown both nationally and internationally with recent exhibitions including *Nuit Blanche* in Toronto and *Burrow* organized by Oakville Galleries. Kuiper was a semi-finalist for the prestigious 2006 Sobey Art Award. She currently lives in Sackville, New Brunswick where she teaches at Mount Allison University.

Born in Nova Scotia, **Cora Cluett** has exhibited her work nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at The Art Gallery of Ontario, The Albright Knox Art Gallery (Buffalo), The Painting Center (New York) and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Recent and upcoming publications featuring her work include *Abstract Painting in Canada* by Roald Nasgaard and *Carte Blanche 2: Painting* by the Magenta Foundation. She is currently an Assistant Professor within the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Waterloo and is represented by Wynick / Tuck Gallery.

Scott Conarroe was born in Edmonton and received a BFA from the Emily Carr Institute (Vancouver, 2001) and an MFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (2005). His photographs are regularly exhibited and collected in Europe, the United States, and across Canada. They have been published in magazines such as *Prefix Photo*, *Canadian Geographic*, *The Walrus*, and the recent book on contemporary Canadian photography *Carte Blanche*. He lives in Toronto and is represented by the Stephen Bulger Gallery.

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