

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY KWAG.CA



Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Presents First Ontario Solo Exhibition by Renowned Indigenous Artist Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tseltun

KITCHENER, ON – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is honored to present the first solo exhibition in Ontario by Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tseltun, one of Canada's most outspoken and influential contemporary artists.

From June 14 to October 5, 2025, [*Floor Opener*](#) showcases four decades of hard-hitting, polemical, yet playful artworks confronting colonialist suppression, environmental degradation, and the ongoing struggles for Indigenous sovereignty.

Of Cowichan (Hul'q'umi'num Coast Salish) and Okanagan (Syilx) descent, Yuxweluptun presents his ideas through powerful contemporary imagery that merges traditional iconography with urgent representations of environmental destruction and colonial history. His works serve as brutal critiques of issues including land title disputes, residential schools, and ecological devastation, establishing him as a pivotal voice in contemporary art.

"The Gallery is pleased and grateful to be able to host this exhibition of work by Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tseltun, a visionary artist whose work has amplified issues surrounding environmental, political, and cultural issues all through an Indigenous lens for many years. We take our role in acting on Truth and Reconciliation seriously, and this project is one of many reflecting our intent," notes Executive Director Shirley Madill. "More than ever, we need the weight of provocation agitated in Yuxweluptun's work during a time of increasing global unrest."

Yuxweluptun's artistic practice spans painting, sculpture, and multimedia works replete with masked fish farmers, super-predator oil barons, abstracted ovoids, and unforgettable depictions of a spirit-filled but now toxic natural world. While rooted in traditional Coast Salish and Okanagan iconography and form, the issues he articulates are inextricably woven into our collective present moment.

About the Artist

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tseltun lives and works on unceded, traditional and ancestral xʷməθkʷəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səl'ilw'ətaʔɪ (Tsleil-Waututh) territories. An artist of Coast Salish and Okanagan descent, he graduated from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in British Columbia. Influential as both artist and activist, Yuxweluptun merges traditional iconography with representations of the environment and the history of colonization, resulting in his powerful, contemporary imagery; his work is replete with masked fish farmers, super-predator oil barons, abstracted ovoids and unforgettable depictions of a spirit-filled, but now toxic, natural world.

Highly respected, Yuxweluptun's work has also been displayed in numerous international group and solo exhibitions, including the seminal *INDIGENA: Contemporary Native Perspectives* (1992) at the Canadian Museum of History (then the Canadian Museum of Civilization) and in *Sakahàn: International*

Indigenous Art (2013) at the National Gallery of Canada. In 1998, Yuxweluptun was the recipient of the Vancouver Institute for the Visual Arts (VIVA) Award. He was also honoured in 2013 with a prestigious Fellowship at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis. Other major projects include the 30-year survey *Unceded Territories* at the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia, which also produced a full-colour publication and commissioned texts.

Land Acknowledgment

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Block 2 on the Haldimand Tract: land promised to Six Nations, which includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River. This is the traditional home of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Peoples, whose resilience we honor by offering this Gallery as a space to reflect and learn from one another. We are committed to reconciliation and ensuring that our Gallery's programs and Permanent Collection demonstrate more diverse, culturally relevant Canadian art and artists.

About Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

As Waterloo Region's leading public art gallery, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) connects people and ideas through art. Its nationally acclaimed exhibitions and programs welcome all to be inspired and challenged through a deepened understanding of ourselves, our cultures, and our communities. It offers dynamic public programs that inspire creativity and an appreciation of the visual arts in the Region and beyond. Established in 1956 and incorporated in 1968, KWAG is a non-profit organization open to the public and administered in the public trust. Admission is free.

Accessibility: KWAG is an accessible venue - visit [KWAG.ca/accessibility](https://www.kwag.ca/accessibility)

Visit Us

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen Street North, Kitchener, ON N2H 6P7
www.kwag.ca

Media Contact: Áine Belton, abelton@kwag.on.ca, 519.579.5860 x 214

Connect with us

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Image credit: Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun Lets'lo:tseletun in front of his work *Fire Path*, 2024, Courtesy of Macaulay + Co., photo: Byron Dauncey.

Funded by



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada