

# KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY KWAG.CA

KWAG Commemorates 50 Years of Celebrating Youth in the Arts with *Expressions 50: Foresight*



19 March 2025, Kitchener ON -The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is proud to announce the opening of [\*Expressions 50: Foresight\*](#), a celebration of youth in the arts. *Expressions* is an annual exhibition in collaboration with the Waterloo Region Catholic District School Board and Waterloo Region District School Board and is sponsored by Aactiva. [\*Expressions 50: Foresight\*](#) is on view from 29 March - 4 May, 2025, and will be celebrated with an Opening Reception on Saturday, 29 March from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

For half a century, *Expressions* has showcased artwork from student artists in Waterloo Region, highlighting their unique perspectives of the world around us and experiences within it. This year, we invite artists to explore their community through an intergenerational lens, sharing their dreams for the future while also reflecting on the past.

Organized by KWAG's Public Programs Department, *Expressions 50* has attracted 150 local school board and home-schooled students from JK through Grade 12, including KWAG's Youth Council and *InSight* Artist in Residence program. This year's *InSight* is the culmination of a collaboration of students of St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School with Swiss-Canadian artist Ernest Daetwyler.

"These young visionaries remind us of our potential to shape a better world, rather than merely accepting what we inherit," remarks Darryn Doull, Curator: Exhibitions & Programs.

"When the Gallery first opened in a bicycle shed behind Kitchener Collegiate Institute, our founders understood the importance of art education for youth," explains Shirley Madill, Executive Director. "That vision continues now that *Expressions* is in its 50th year and still going strong. The arts are crucial to creating well-rounded and forward-thinking learners and leaders, and we are proud to collaborate with schools, parents, and teachers to secure a creative future for our young people."

The students' works displayed during *Expressions 50* will hang beside a selection of art from the Gallery's Permanent Collection—chosen in keeping with this year's theme. Including works from the Collection creates a relationship between the work that we hold in trust for the public and the students of the region who are, in essence, our up-and-coming artists. We think it's important for the students to see their work hung beside that of professional artists so that they are encouraged in their love of art and art making and perhaps more fully appreciate the opportunities of a future in the arts.

More than 1,100 students are expected to visit the gallery with their schools during the exhibition, in addition to those who attend with their friends and family outside of school hours.

#### **Programming:**

The KWAG Youth Council is leading a guided tour on Thursday, 1 May, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

#### **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. For the benefit of current and future generations, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery collects, preserves, researches, interprets, and exhibits the visual arts. 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.

KWAG 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.

Accessibility: KWAG is fully accessible.

### Visit Us

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen Street North, Kitchener, ON N2H 6P7  
[www.kwag.ca](http://www.kwag.ca)

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Image: Hannah Lee, *One More Light*, 2024. Acrylic on canvas. 45 x 60 cm. *Expressions 49: Breaking Through*, 4 May - 2 June, 2024. Photo by KWAG.

Sponsored by Activa.

*Expressions* is generously supported by the Waterloo Catholic District School Board and the Waterloo Region District School Board.

