

For immediate release

Women's Endurance and Survival Celebrated in *Final Girl*, KWAG's Upcoming Exhibition from the Permanent Collection

5 July 2018, Kitchener ON – The strength of women in the face of adversity will be on display in *Final Girl*, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery's next Permanent Collection exhibition opening on **Wednesday 18 July with an Opening Reception at 7:00 pm.**

KWAG Senior Curator Crystal Mowry has taken inspiration from horror and thriller cinematic culture in which the “final girl” is a female character who endures recurring threats to emerge as the sole survivor at the end of the film. With powerful resonance with today's #MeToo movement and the growing urgency of women's rights, *Final Girl* unites works of art from KWAG's Permanent Collection that explore endurance as a strength that surfaces in images of and by women.

“With *Final Girl*, we took our source of inspiration from popular culture – the recurring motif of a woman whose strength lies in vigilance, endurance and ultimately, persistence,” explains Crystal Mowry. “In a time when seismic social changes can be brought about when women simply refuse to back down and become invisible, the works in the exhibition take on unexpected new meaning.”

Central to *Final Girl* is **Shary Boyle's** *Looney Tunes*, which will be displayed for the first time since its acquisition in late 2017. Boyle's diminutive seated figure conflates the roles of virtuous maiden and wrathful witch as a singularly complex being with much to say about the tenor of today's socio-political discourse. *Final Girl* also features historical and contemporary works of art by international and Canadian artists including **Joyce Wieland**, whose monumental painting *Shawnadithit* memorializes a young Beothuk woman who served as a fiercely intelligent witness to the genocide of her people.

Following an exclusive sneak preview for KWAG's Partner Club members on Wednesday 11 July, *Final Girl* will open to the public on Wednesday 18 July and remain on view until 23 September, 2018.

Also on View

Object Lessons continues our Community Curator series, which activates the Permanent Collection through fresh perspectives. Curated by Beatriz Asfora,



Shary Boyle (Canadian, b. 1972), *Looney Tunes*, 2016. Porcelain and terra cotta, 28cm x 20cm x 20cm. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Collection. Purchased with the support of the York Wilson Endowment Award, administered by the Canada Council for the Arts, 2017. © Shary Boyle. Photo: John Jones.

a recent Master of Arts graduate from Western University, *Object Lessons* features both historical and contemporary works that speak to the history of collecting and the inner lives of objects. This exhibition remains on view in our Corridor Gallery until 19 August, 2018.

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ABOUT THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

Established in 1956, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) is Waterloo Region's oldest and largest public art gallery with an emphasis on contemporary art, offering creative and accessible experiences for all ages and segments of society. KWAG connects people and ideas through art, drawing the community into a shared experience of art that moves from sight to insight. The Gallery and its Permanent Collection of more than 4000 works is located within Centre In The Square.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery acknowledges that we are located on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. We are on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral Confederacy), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples.

MEDIA CONTACT

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HOURS AND ADMISSION

T-W 9:30 am-5 pm, Thu 9:30 am-9 pm, Fri 9:30 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm,
Sun 1-5 pm

Open before most Centre In The Square performances

Admission to KWAG's exhibitions is free, courtesy of

