

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

For immediate release

Prestigious York Wilson Award Leads New Acquisitions at KWAG

15 February 2018, Kitchener ON – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is honoured to be the recipient of the York Wilson Endowment Award, which funded the acquisition of *Looney Tunes*, a sculpture by **Shary Boyle**. This delicate terracotta maiden sporting a cartoonish witch's features marks KWAG's first acquisition of a work by this high-profile artist who represented Canada at the 2013 Venice Biennale, and the first sculpture by a woman artist to enter KWAG's collection in over twenty years.

Awarded annually to a Canadian art museum or public art gallery through a highly competitive process, the York Wilson Endowment is administered by the Canada Council for the Arts and enables the purchase of a painting or sculpture by a living Canadian artist.

“Acquiring this work with the generous support of the York Wilson Endowment is an important step in KWAG's commitment to amplify feminist voices through our collection,” explains Crystal Mowry, KWAG's Senior Curator. “The sculpture deftly achieves this, at a critical turning point in our culture and politics, through its dual depiction of woman as virtuous maiden and wrathful witch.”

This acquisition is one of several note-worthy additions to KWAG's collection of Canadian contemporary art. Two works by the late Canadian photographer **Lynne Cohen** entered the Collection through the generosity of private donors. *Spa*, a work currently featured in our exhibition *Halcyon Days*, was donated by Andrew Lugg of Montréal, while the purchase of Cohen's *Classroom* was enabled by the generosity of Norah and Ken Rae of Kitchener-Waterloo, whose donation honours the memory of their daughter-in-law Lisa Ann Rae, “who never stopped learning.”

“Sixty-two years after our founding, KWAG continues to be forward-looking, according great importance to contemporary art in programming and acquisitions,” says Executive Director Shirley Madill. “We are grateful for the generosity of patrons who help in building the collection. The acquisition of two works by Lynne Cohen, one of Canada's most penetrating photographers of human environments, adds a significant voice to our collection and stands proudly alongside the work of other photographers such as Edward Burtynsky, April Hickox, and Robert Bourdeaux.”

In what proved to be an exceptional year of acquisitions, the following works have also



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.

recently entered the Permanent Collection:

- **Brendan Fernandes'** *1979.206.200*, the first neon work to enter our collection in twenty years, was generously donated by the artist
- Four drawings from **Joseph Tisiga's** 2017 solo exhibition, *IBC: They say he hit them with his gloves*, were purchased with funds provided by the Elizabeth L. Gordon Art Program, administered by the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation and the Ontario Arts Foundation
- *Composition (Clock)*, a large drawing by celebrated Inuk artist **Shuvinaï Ashoona** was also purchased with the support of the Elizabeth L. Gordon Art Program, and is on view in *Halcyon Days* until 4 March
- **Maggie Groat's** *Alternative Guide to SET*, featured in the artist's 2017 solo exhibition *Suns also Seasons*, was graciously donated by the artist

KWAG's Permanent Collection comprises over 4000 works of historical and contemporary art that are preserved and exhibited for the education and enjoyment of all people in Waterloo region and beyond.

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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.

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Admission to KWAG's exhibitions is free, courtesy of

