

For immediate release

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Temporarily Closed as Transformative Lobby Renovation Begins

15 January 2019, Kitchener ON – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery will be closed to the general public from today through to Saturday 19 January as we embark on the first stages of a major lobby renovation that will transform the Gallery’s primary entry and visitor experience.

From January through to April 2019, KWAG will undertake a substantial facility upgrade project that will take major strides towards achieving legal accessibility standards while going beyond compliance to create an inclusive and welcoming lobby space.

“At KWAG we believe in providing visitors with a welcoming and comfortable experience that connects the Gallery with the urban fabric of the city,” says Shirley Madill, Executive Director. “The design of the new lobby embraces the visitor and ignites the imagination upon entry.” Upon completion, visitors will be able to enjoy the following new features:

- Redesigned Visitor Services Centre aligned with the Community Access Space
- Interactive Education Hub with integrated technology designed to support hands-on learning and online exploration of the creative process
- A new central gathering area for visitors to relax and meet with friends
- Fully accessible gender-neutral washrooms
- Polished concrete flooring and raised ceiling height

Demolition of the lobby is presently underway with a projected completion date of late April 2019 in anticipation of the Opening Reception of *Expressions 44*, KWAG’s annual and highly popular exhibition of student artwork from across Waterloo Region. Despite the inevitable disruptions that will accompany this renovation, the Gallery is committed to maintaining regular hours and programming over the coming three months; visitors are asked to regularly check our [website](#), [KWAG Weekly e-newsletter](#) and social media during this time to receive notice of changes to hours and events.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is grateful for the support and oversight of the City of Kitchener in these improvements to our home in the Centre in the Square. This renovation has been funded with the support of the City of Kitchener, the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, Telus, Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation and Good Foundation.

CONSTRUCTION NOTICES:

Tales of Heritage: Our Corridor Gallery exhibition featuring the collaborative works of Saul Field and Hédi Bouraoui has been temporarily de-installed to protect the artworks until further notice.

Family Day: Our annual afternoon of free art activities for people of all ages will take place off-site at the Victoria Hills Community Centre at 10 Chopin Drive, Kitchener on Monday 18 February from 1:00-4:00 pm.

Community Access Space: Public event rentals of our Community Access Space are on hold pending substantial completion of our lobby renovations. Local community groups and businesses may still book the CAS for events from May 2019 onward.

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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), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples.

MEDIA CONTACT

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KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

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HOURS AND ADMISSION

Tues-Fri 9:30 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm

Please check our website for changes to Gallery hours during construction.

Admission to KWAG's exhibitions is free, courtesy of



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