



KWAG Calls for Student Artwork for Expressions 51: Forging a New Path

6 November 2025, Kitchener, ON -The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is proud to announce that it is accepting submissions for [*Expressions 51: Forging a new path*](#), the annual exhibition in collaboration with the Waterloo Region Catholic District School Board and Waterloo Region District School Board. The Gallery is accepting submissions from students in Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12 until Sunday, 7 December 2025.

For half a century, KWAG's *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, young artists will reflect on intergenerational connectedness as a force for building sustainable futures.

“These young visionaries remind us of our potential to shape a better world, rather than merely accepting what we inherit,” remarks Hannah Braithwaite, Programs Lead, Community Engagement and Learning.

Organized by KWAG’s Public Programs Department, *Expressions* has previously attracted 150 local school board and home-schooled students from JK through Grade 12, including KWAG’s Youth Council.

“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 as 2026 marks the Gallery’s 70th anniversary and is 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 51* 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 fosters a connection between the pieces the Gallery holds in trust for the public and the students of the region, who are, in essence, the emerging artists.

Upcoming programming for the *Expressions* submission process includes a [Teachers’ Evening](#) at the Gallery. “We are hosting an evening to celebrate the passionate teachers that support young artists—teachers who register for this celebration will spend the evening making art, viewing current exhibitions, and learning about student opportunities,” says Braithwaite. “We know that teachers are essential in ensuring valuable art education is present in the classroom. Thanks to the support we receive from the Waterloo Region District School Board and Waterloo Catholic District School Board, we can hold *Expressions* as well as subsidize [School Programs](#) related to the Gallery.”

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. *Expressions 51: Forging a new path* will officially open to the public on Saturday, 24 January 2026, with a public reception.

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

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

Connect with us

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

Images: *Expressions 50: Foresight* Exhibition Opening. Photo by Scott Lee.

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

