



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARTIST EXCAVATES KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY FLOOR IN BOLD NEW INSTALLATION

Jenine Marsh's HARBINGER Reimagines the Gallery as a Space for Collective Desire

Kitchener, Ontario – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) is pleased to announce [*HARBINGER*](#), a site-specific installation by acclaimed Canadian artist Jenine Marsh. Opening this Saturday, 18 October, with a public reception and artist talk from 2:00 p.m., this immersive work invites visitors to reconsider the rituals, symbols, and systems that shape our understanding of value.

Marsh's practice engages with themes of value, mortality, agency, and utopia through sculpture and installation, approached from the perspective of end-stage capitalism. Many of her artworks feature altered or defaced coins, synthetically preserved flowers, and, more recently, the form of the civic fountain. Building on recent exhibitions, including a feature project, [*Wellspring*](#), at Nuit Blanche Toronto in 2023 and at the new Goldfarb Gallery at York University, Jenine Marsh is set to transform KWAG as her next excavation site, further examining the interplay of desire, space, and community within the institution.

"With her keen focus on the rituals and symbols that shape our understanding of value, [HARBINGER](#) promises to delve deeper into the Gallery's architecture and the cultural narratives embedded within its walls. Marsh challenges perceptions of the public arts institution but also encourages reflection on the socio-economic systems that influence artistic expression and the place of the individual amongst the commons. The humble figure of the pigeon becomes a bit of a sentinel, marshalling imagined utopias, poking at the frayed edges of capitalism amongst a wash of grey." – Darryn Doull, Curator: Exhibitions and Programs.

[HARBINGER](#) extends this critical inquiry through the form of the civic fountain—a near-universal symbol of collective wish-making and desire—bringing Marsh's practice of excavation and ground-based intervention into the gallery space. It's unclear if the fountain is just about to open, or if it fell into disuse and is just about to be decommissioned.

"Each time I use coins in my work, I reconsider value from a slightly different angle. [HARBINGER](#) uses these handcrafted coins to confront coin-wishing as a subtle yet illicit expression of post-capitalist desire." – Jenine Marsh, artist.

At the heart of [HARBINGER](#) lie approximately two hundred cast bronze coins, produced in collaboration with Artcast Inc., a regional family-run foundry. Created using the lost-wax casting method and finished with electroplating in nickel, copper, or zinc, these coins function as deliberate counterfeits. Paradoxically valuable in their failure—their metallic worth and production costs far exceed that of actual currency—they simultaneously undermine and mimic capital's systems of value. These tactile works are surrounded by subtle sources of sound that respond both to the facility and to viewers in the space, resulting in a truly embodied, multi-sensorial experience.

[Jenine Marsh](#) (b. 1984 Calgary) is an accomplished artist whose sculpture and installation work has been exhibited internationally at leading institutions including the Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art, the Goldfarb Art Gallery, the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Palais de Tokyo in Paris, and galleries in New York, Berlin, London, and beyond. She has received residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts, AiR Bergen, Rupert in Vilnius, and the Vermont Studio Center. Her work has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Toronto Arts Council, and the Ontario Arts Council. Marsh holds a BFA from Alberta University of the Arts (2007) and an MFA from the University of Guelph (2013) and is currently a doctoral candidate at York University.

About KWAG:

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. 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 an accessible venue. [Visit kwag.ca/accessibility](http://www.kwag.ca/accessibility) for more information.

Visit Us

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen Street North, Kitchener, ON N2H 6P7
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This exhibition is presented with the support of KWAG's [Women for Women's Art](#).

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