KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY KWAG.CA 70 1956 • 2026



Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Launches 70th Anniversary Online Auction to Preserve Art for Future Generations

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Kitchener, ON – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) launches its annual Online Auction, celebrating the Gallery's 70th anniversary. From 12 November to 13 December, 2026, bid on original artworks, experiences, and services donated by local businesses and community members.

Founded in 1956, KWAG is Waterloo Region's oldest and largest public art gallery. Welcoming 20,000 visitors annually, KWAG connects people and ideas through free exhibitions, programs, and workshops.

This year's Online Auction aims to raise $25,000 to support stewardship of KWAG's Permanent Collection, ensuring that exceptional art remains accessible for generations to come. Bidders can look forward to a diverse selection of items, including Kitchener Rangers tickets, theatre tickets from some of Southern Ontario's leading theatre companies, and tickets to other cultural institutions.

"Art possesses the remarkable ability to connect people from different cultures and backgrounds, fostering dialogues that might never happen otherwise," says Executive Director Shirley Madill. "Free admission opens doors for everyone and creates a more inclusive cultural landscape. We invite the community to help keep our Permanent Collection and exhibitions accessible as we celebrate our 70th anniversary!"

This year's feature item: an editioned print of Edward Burtynsky's piece, *Avatar Grove #4, Vancouver Island*. Edward Burtynsky is regarded as one of the world's most accomplished contemporary photographers; Burtynsky has spent over 40 years documenting industry's impact on our planet. Proceeds raised will help keep the Gallery free for all and build a more connected community for generations to come.

Celebrate KWAG's milestone and support the arts by bidding in the Online Auction, open from 12 November (10:00 a.m.) to 13 December (10:00 p.m.). Preview items in person at the Gallery's Community Access Space from 24–27 November, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

About the 70 for 70 Campaign:

The 70 for 70 campaign celebrates KWAG's 70th Anniversary in 2026 and aims to raise $70,000 to keep the Gallery free and accessible to all. This initiative will support stewardship of the diverse Permanent Collection and enhance public engagement through various exhibitions and programs. By prioritizing accessibility, KWAG reaffirms its commitment to being a vital cultural resource in the community, fostering connections through art and encouraging appreciation among residents and visitors alike.

About the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

Founded in 1956, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is the oldest and largest collecting public art gallery in Waterloo Region. Through free admission, exhibitions, educational programming, and community initiatives, KWAG connects people and ideas through contemporary art while stewarding a Permanent Collection of more than 4,400 works held in public trust.

Contact

For more information on viewing auction items:
Trisha Kelley, Development Officer
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery
Tel: (519) 579-5860, ext. 221;
Email: tkelley@kwag.on.ca

Image credit: Edward Burtynsky, *Avatar Grove #4, Vancouver Island,* British Columbia, Canada, 2017.