



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rosalie Favell Retrospective at Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

Belonging Explores 2SLGBTQ+ Identity, Desire, and Community Through the Lens of Rosalie Favell

KITCHENER, ON — The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is excited to announce the upcoming exhibition of work by award-winning Red River Métis artist Rosalie Favell. [*Belonging / \(1982 - 2024\)*](#) is the first major career survey of Favell's work and runs through 22 November 2026. The exhibition celebrates

Favell's groundbreaking photographic practice—from seminal series like *Living Evidence*, her expansive archive *Facing the Camera*, and *Plain(s) Warrior Artist*. Favell's body of work explores nuanced ideas around identity, empowerment, and 2SLGBTQ+ community/desire, among other essential subjects. Favell's ongoing series, *Facing the Camera*, features portraits of hundreds of Indigenous artists from across Canada, the USA, and Australia. The archive invites us to bear witness and explore complex themes as part of a nuanced search for belonging through a lens that is both deeply personal and subtly subversive.

"The impetus for the series derived from my realization that a document had not been made of individuals who make up the Indigenous arts community,"¹ says Favell. We bear witness to Favell's photographic explorations that emulate the intricate longing for autonomy and belonging amongst many.



¹ Nayyar, R. (2026, June 19). *Rosalie Favell and the search for herself*. Hyperallergic. <https://hyperallergic.com/rosalie-favell-and-the-search-for-herself/>

“The influence that Rosalie’s work has made regarding such complex themes related to Indigenous identity has been impactful and can never be underestimated,” says Shirley Madill, Executive Director. “Her work is powerful in fostering new understanding. I am grateful to KWAG’s Women for Women’s Art for supporting this exhibition of this important artist.”

Favell has deployed photography as a critical tool to explore personal and collective identities, focusing on strategies of empowerment, the archive and family ties, nationhood, and the making visible of issues of sexuality, public and private. She amasses her works from across her creative journey, including her innovative series *Living Evidence* (1993).

Favell has achieved national and international acclaim, with a creative practice spanning over 40 years. Favell has used portraiture in photography, painting, and video to understand and represent her ancestry and identity in works that have been exhibited and collected nationally and internationally. Over the course of her career, she has received numerous grants, won prestigious awards, and was granted an Honorary Doctorate from OCAD University in 2022.

[Opening Celebrations](#) are planned for Friday, 7 August, with a KWAG Member’s Preview at 6 p.m. and the General Public opening from 7 p.m. An in-depth talk between Rosalie Favell and exhibition curator Ryan Rice (Executive Director and Curator, Indigenous Art at Onsite Gallery) will take place at KWAG on Saturday, 8 August, from 2 to 3 p.m. All events are free to attend.

About Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

Since 1956, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) has been Waterloo Region’s leading public art gallery, connecting 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. Now celebrating 70 years, the Gallery cares for a permanent collection of over 4,400 works and continues to offer dynamic public programs that inspire creativity and an appreciation of the visual arts in the Region and beyond. Admission is free.

Accessibility: KWAG is an [accessible venue](#).

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery
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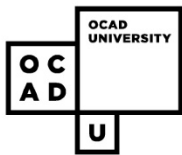
Image credits:

Rosalie Favell, *My First Day of Assimilation*, 1996 (remastered 2024), from the series from *an early age*. Image courtesy of the artist.

Rosalie Favell, *Rosalie Favell*, from the series *Facing the Camera*. Image courtesy of the artist.

Rosalie Favel / Belonging (1984-2024) is possible due to the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council (an agency of the Government of Ontario), Terra Foundation for American Art, Toronto Arts Council, and The Delaney Family. The exhibition is presented with the support of [KWAG's Women for Women's Art](#).

Curatorial and Artist Talks are sponsored by Wells Resolutions and Sorbara Law.



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