

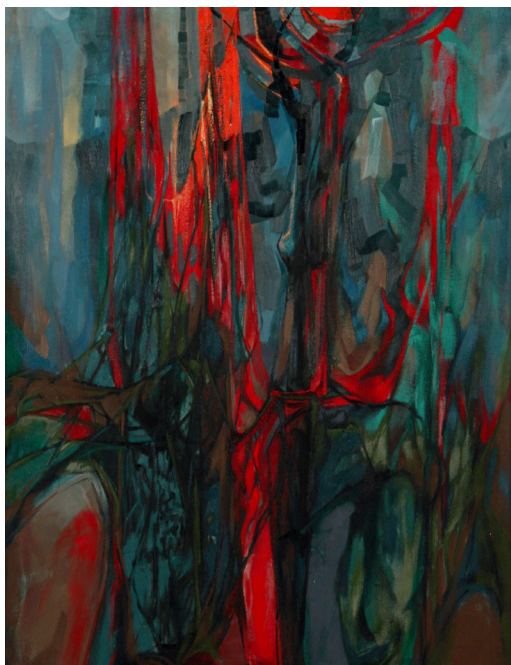
A PIECE OF CLOTH, HELD TAUT

If a work of art could speak in its own voice, what would it have to say?

Kitchener artist Aislinn Thomas opens up this possibility in *A piece of cloth, held taut*—a new audio art project commissioned by KWAG. Throughout February and early March, Thomas worked closely with a group of volunteers of many ages and backgrounds to record unconventional visual descriptions of selected artworks in *The Myth of Consensus*, which features works of Canadian abstraction dating from 1960-1980.

While traditional visual description aims to deliver neutral observations of an object for visually impaired audiences, Thomas has orchestrated an imaginative approach to this accessibility practice.

Listen to the audio tracks of this unique commissioned artwork.



Create your own descriptions

Here are two other examples of abstract work from KWAG's Permanent Collection. Consider how you would describe the work to someone who could not see it.

Similar to *A piece of cloth, held taut*, imagine you are the painting and describe yourself. Adopt a first-person voice that speaks for the painting as a living entity with its own thoughts and experiences.

OR

Create a more traditional visual description of the artwork. Here are some guidelines for this approach from **Art Beyond Sight**.

Record your description of the artwork using a smartphone or digital device, or verbally describe it to someone in your household.

Try asking multiple friends and family members to describe the same work of art and see how a person's unique interpretation affects their description of it.

Images (front, left to right)

Harold Town (Canadian, 1924-1990), *Summit Meeting*, 1961. Oil and lucite on canvas, 189.9cm x 210.6cm (framed). Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Collection. Gift of Roger I. Davidson, 1984. © Estate of Harold Town.

Takao Tanabe (Canadian, b. 1926), *Optimist*, 1964. Oil on canvas, 70.8cm x 123.6cm (framed). Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Collection. Gift of Mr. Robert Williams, 1987. © Takao Tanabe.

(back, left to right)

Jack Bechtel (Canadian, 1923-1966), *Personal Heritage*, 1966, oil on Masonite, 122.2 x 91.5 cm. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Permanent Collection. Gift of Marion E. Bechtel, 1982. © KWAG.

Jack Bechtel (Canadian, 1923-1966), *Mountain Oracle*, 1961, oil on canvas, 126.3 x 95.5 cm (framed). Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Permanent Collection. Bequest of William G. Biggs Estate, 1962. © KWAG.