

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY KWAG.CA

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KWAG Celebrates Youth in the Arts for the 48th year with *Expressions 48: Wherever You Are* “A Tradition, a Labour of Community Love”

30 January 2023- *Expressions 48: Wherever You Are*, a celebration of youth in the arts, opens 4 February 2023. Expressions is an annual exhibition in collaboration with the Waterloo Region Catholic District School Board and Waterloo Region District School Board.

An opening reception will take place, 5 February 2023, 2 pm- 4pm. KWAG invites the community to hear our Executive Director, Director of Public Programs, representatives from our School Boards and city officials say a few words to congratulate the students.

This year, students responded to the theme *Wherever You Are*, inspired by Sarah Al-Dulaimi's *Summer Urban Landscape*. We asked students to embrace the present and create artwork that conveys the space they currently occupy: physically, mentally, and artistically.

The Waterloo Region District School Board has submitted 99 pieces of art, The Waterloo Catholic District School Board has submitted 42, and The Independent schools, as well as Home School Communities have submitted 26 entries. KWAG's Youth Council, sponsored by TD Bank and Astley Foundation have been working hard to supplement the exhibition with pieces created in the gallery.

“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 now that Expressions is in its 48th year and 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.”

After learning about the history of the Expressions exhibitions KWAG's new Director of Public Programs, Eleonora Sermoneta commented, “It's inspiring to see a whole community – teachers, students, families, and the KWAG staff – coming together every year to make *Expressions* possible and celebrate students' creativity. *Expressions* has been going on for 48 years, it's not a simple exhibition, it's a tradition, a labour of community love”.

The entire staff at KWAG has been working hard with anticipation for this year's exhibition. Education Coordinator Monique Wozny remarks, “Exhibiting artwork can be intimidating for an emerging artist. *Expressions 48: Wherever You Are* provides a safe, empowering, collective space for students to experience this dynamic opportunity firsthand.” Public Programs Coordinator Desarée Roskopf agrees: “It's always exciting when it's time for *Expressions* because it's this beautiful collaboration between KWAG and our community. This year we get to see glimpses into the creative, mental, and emotional spaces that the next generation occupies and can reflect on own spaces through encountering these amazing works”.

ABOUT KWAG

As Waterloo region's leading public 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, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is a non-profit organization open to the public and administered in the public trust.

Exhibitions frequently draw upon selections from over 4300 works from the Permanent Collection to provide a context and forum for dialogue on current exhibitions and contemporary issues. KWAG plays a vital educational role in the community, offering a full spectrum of artistic experience for adults, children and families alike.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES OR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Amanda Bjarnason

Manager, Marketing and Communications

519.579.5860 x 218

abjarnason@kwag.on.ca

Exhibition Media Kit

IMAGES



For high resolution image and logo downloads please visit [Expressions 48: Wherever You Are](#)

IMAGE CREDITS (left to right)

1. Sarah Al-Dulaimi, *Summer Urban Landscape*, 2022. Courtesy of the Artist.
2. Ann MacIntosh Duff, *Window, Lake Manitou*, 1963. Monotype on paper, 43.6 x 56.1 cm. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Collection: Gift of the Douglas M. Duncan Collection, 1970. © The Estate of Ann MacIntosh Duff. Photo: KWAG.
3. April Hickox, *Vantage Point: Portholes #12*, 2009. Chromogenic print, 56 x 56 cm. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Collection: Gift of the Artist, 2018. © April Hickox. Courtesy of the Artist.