

# KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

For immediate release

## The show goes on with *Soundings: An Exhibition in Five Parts*

17 June 2020, Kitchener ON – How can a score be a call and tool for decolonization? Curated by Candice Hopkins and Dylan Robinson, *Soundings: An Exhibition in Five Parts* features newly commissioned scores, performances, videos, sculptures and sound by Indigenous and other artists who respond to this question. Unfolding in a sequence of five parts, the scores take the form of beadwork, videos, objects, graphic notation, historical belongings, and written instructions. During the exhibition, which will greet visitors when the Gallery reopens to the public from **Saturday 27 June**, these scores are activated at specific moments by musicians, dancers, performers and members of the public gradually filling the Gallery and surrounding public spaces with sound and action.

The exhibition is cumulative, gathering an ever-changing community of artworks, shared experience and engagement as it travels, and its presentation at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery during the COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. *Soundings* shifts and evolves, gaining new artists and players in each location, and the presentation of virtual performances and talks during KWAG's closure will add to this exhibition's call for change and growth.

'Installing this exhibition during a pandemic offered a unique learning experience,' says Crystal Mowry, KWAG's Senior Curator.

'Since *Soundings* was conceived to include multiple "acts" or changes during its run, constant care and purposeful adjustments are ongoing. By virtue of its design, *Soundings* ensures that its host commits not only to the work of Indigenous artists but also to a critical examination of what decolonization looks like in our institutions. In a moment when communities are prioritizing actions over platitudes, this exhibition encourages us to consider how the resonance of artistic actions can effect change.'

'Understanding that colonization is implicated in the structures of all Canadian art institutions, we, as cultural workers who work in these places, may choose to be agents of either stasis or change,' adds Shirley Madill, Executive Director. 'The team at KWAG has chosen to be proactive in supporting and strengthening our relationship with Indigenous artists and their communities through programming initiatives that are inclusive of Indigenous voices. We are pleased to present this significant exhibition as a reflection of this commitment.'



Kite, *Listener*, 2018, Performance documentation. Photo by vog.photo. Collection of the artist.

**Artists:** Raven Chacon and Cristóbal Martínez, Sebastian De Line, Maggie Groat, Kite, Cheryl L'Hirondelle, Tanya Lukin Linklater, Ogimaa Mikana, Peter Morin, Heidi Aklaseaq Senungetuk, Olivia Whetung and Tania Willard, with performances featuring Charlena Russell, Long Branch and Alysha Brilla.

**Events Schedule** (Please note dates and times may be subject to change)

**Saturday 20 June:** In-gallery performance by Charlena Russell, 2pm (By invitation only)

**Sunday 21 June:** Virtual performance by Kite, 2pm via Facebook Live

**Wednesday 24 June:** Curators Talk with Candice Hopkins & Dylan Robinson, 7pm via Zoom

**Saturday 25 July:** Outdoor performance of Raven Chacon's work by Long Branch // Performance of Tania Willard's work by Alysha Brilla in Main Gallery (Times TBD)

*Soundings: An Exhibition in Five Parts* is an exhibition curated by Candice Hopkins and Dylan Robinson, and organized by Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University, Canada. The traveling exhibition is organized by Independent Curators International (ICI). The exhibition and tour are made possible, in part, with the generous support from ICI's International Forum and the ICI Board of Trustees. Additional support has been provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter Program, the Isabel and Alfred Bader Fund of Bader Philanthropies, the Ontario Arts Council, the City of Kingston Arts Fund through the Kingston Arts Council, and the George Taylor Richardson Memorial Fund at Queen's University.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the further support of The Musagetes Fund held at Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund in their presentation of *Soundings: An Exhibition in Five Parts*.

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## ABOUT THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

Established in 1956, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) is Waterloo Region's leading public art gallery with an emphasis on contemporary art, offering creative and accessible experiences for all ages and segments of society. KWAG connects people and ideas through art, drawing the community into a shared experience of art that moves from sight to insight. The Gallery and its Permanent Collection of more than 4000 works is located within Centre In The Square.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery respectfully acknowledges that we are located on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. We are on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral Confederacy), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples.

## MEDIA CONTACT

Stephanie Vegh, Manager, Media & Communications | 519-579-5860 x 218

E: [svegh@kwag.on.ca](mailto:svegh@kwag.on.ca)

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY  
101 Queen Street N, Kitchener  
kwag.ca | 519.579.5860

#### HOURS AND ADMISSION

KWAG remains closed to the public until Saturday 27 June while we prepare for reopening. Visit us online at [kwag.ca](http://kwag.ca) for more information.

Admission to KWAG's exhibitions is free, courtesy of Sun Life Financial.

