

For immediate release: 24 February 2017

The Big Bang!
A one-night-only cosmic event featuring
a commissioned art installation, music, art activities
and out-of-this-world custom cocktails

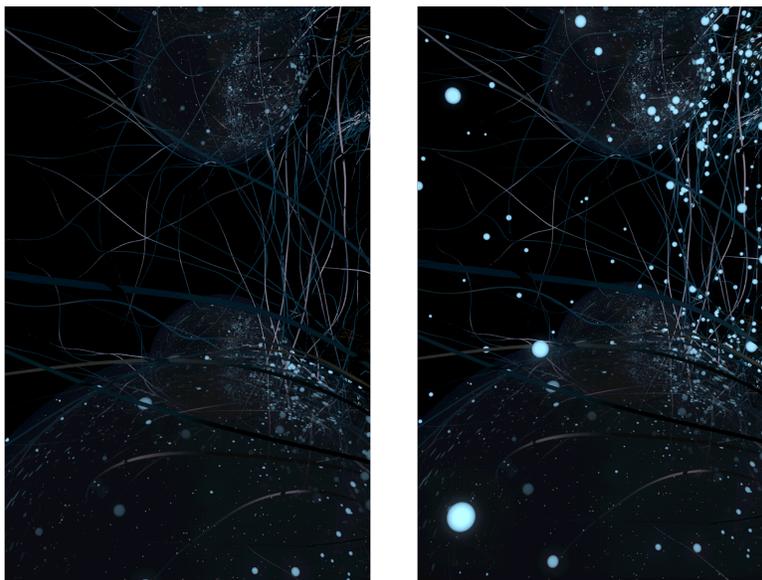
On Friday, 7 April starting at 8 pm, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) presents **The Big Bang!**, a unique fusion of art, music, art-making, and custom cocktails. For one night only, artists Jenn E Norton and Steph Yates will fill KWAG's Main Gallery with a nebulous floating landscape called *Near Fields* that uses undulating forms and multiple video projections on inflatable clouds to craft an illusion of matter pooling as it changes states. The art installation aims to reproduce the experience of witnessing a cosmic event slowed down for the naked eye.

Led by Sommelier Wes Klassen, The Berlin—one of the country's most innovative modern dining establishments—will design custom cocktails inspired by the night. DJ Brando Von Dino will be spin other-worldly tunes. Guests can take part in participatory and collaborative art projects that grow throughout the night, try their hand at simple art making, and join in the fun with tarot card reading, cosmic nail art, and do-it-yourself temporary tattoos. And there will be other surprises throughout the evening.

All proceeds from The Big Bang! support education programming at KWAG including the Summer Art Camp Bursary. Tickets are \$20 (plus HST) and can be purchased at kwag.ca, by phone at 519-579-5860, ext. 100, or in person at the front desk during Gallery hours (times listed below). Cash bar. Guests must be 19 or older to attend.

"This is the first time we have commissioned artists for a one-night-only installation combined with a unique social event in support of educational programming at the Gallery," said KWAG Executive Director Shirley Madill. "I look forward to joining our guests in this immersive and engaging interaction with art: we'll be sipping cocktails, listening to music, and together experiencing a celestial cosmic event."

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Credit line for images:

Jenn E Norton and Steph Yates, *Near Fields*, 2017, video still. Image courtesy of the artists.

About the KWAG Summer Art Camp Bursary

KWAG believes that the arts should be accessible to everyone. The Summer Art Camp Bursary helps fulfill that goal by making it possible for children who would not be able to attend art camp for financial reasons to do so. KWAG often receives bursary requests in excess of the funds available, so proceeds from The Big Bang will ensure every child who wants to attend receives a spot at camp. In addition to Summer Art Camps, KWAG also offers a comprehensive Education Program of workshops, activities, classes, and events for children, families, and adults. For more details, visit kwag.ca.

About the Artists

Jenn E Norton and **Steph Yates** are based in Guelph and have shown their work independently and collaboratively, earning recognition for their curious rethinking of technology in both local and international spheres. Working in a manner that incorporates video, kinetic sculpture, animation, and sound, they create installations that come alive with human interaction. Recently, their work has explored cause and effect through the absurd repurposing of everyday objects that produce invisible forces such as light, heat, air currents, and radio waves. The resulting efforts mine “the everyday” as a source of energy, inventiveness, and unexpected creative potential. Their new installation *Near Fields* examines how, from the early days of radio-wave transmission to the now ubiquitous Bluetooth technology, near-field communication has redefined how we understand collective experience.

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Established in 1956, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) emphasizes contemporary art, has a more than 4,000-work Permanent Collection and offers creative and artistic experiences for adults, children and families. KWAG connects people and ideas through art, drawing the community together into a shared experience of art that moves from sight to insight. The Gallery is located within Centre In The Square.

MEDIA CONTACT

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KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

101 Queen Street N, Kitchener

kwag.ca | 519.579.5860

HOURS AND ADMISSION

T-W 9:30 am-5 pm, Thu 9:30 am-9 pm, Fri 9:30 am-5 pm,

Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm

Open before most Centre In The Square performances.

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