

Joyce Wieland: A Clutter of Love, 21 January to 21 May

26 January 27 2023 - The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is excited to announce the recent opening of a new exhibition *Joyce Wieland: A Clutter of Love* on 21 January 2023.

Joyce Wieland was a Canadian artist, political activist and feminist that celebrated and critiqued patriotism throughout her career. “Joyce Wieland was always ahead of her time, breaking the imagined boundaries between art and craft, the political and the personal, and fine art and craft, to name just a few.” says Darryn Doull, KWAG’s curator. “That is one reason why her work is still so important and why it continues to inspire. With nationalism on the rise and women’s rights on the decline around the world, perhaps it is unfortunate that this work, some of it nearly 50 years old, is still right on the pulse of the times.”

“This exhibition’s tribute to the work of Joyce Wieland is timely just as her contribution to Canadian art is timeless,” agrees Shirley Madill, KWAG’s Executive Director. “In context of women artists work, she has pushed boundaries being a proponent of a distinctive feminine sensibility in the way she honoured women’s traditional creative techniques. She dismantled art world constraints that separated fine art and women’s work. For Wieland, feminism was linked to national identity as she considered Canada as feminine. With the support of KWAG’s Women of Influence for Women’s Art, we are so pleased to honour her in this project.”

This exhibition includes the work of Fernanda Pessoa whom drew inspiration from Wieland’s film *Solidarity* and August Klintberg whose displayed work is in response to Wieland’s best-known works, *Reason Over Passion*. The foundation of this exhibition was built on seven Wieland pieces found in KWAG’s Permeant Collection; complimented by loans from the Art Gallery of Guelph, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery and Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre.

“At the end of the day, I hope this exhibition is seen as a celebration – of the strength of our collection, which forms the backbone of the project; of the power of collective action; and of an artist, whose work continues to bring people together.” remarks Doull on the intended take away from this beautiful and moving exhibition.

See summary of related programs to guide the viewer into a more in-depth understanding of Joyce Wieland, her work, inspiration, influence, and the chosen collection for this exhibit.

Related Programs

[KWAG Film Series at KPL, Wednesday 22 February, 7-9pm](#)

Join us for a free screening of Joyce Wieland's *Reason over Passion / La raison avant la passion*. This 1969 feature-length experimental film was inspired by a speech given by the Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, in which the phrase "reason over passion" was meant to be a strategic goal for Canada's future and the possibility of some sort of unity between French and English communities.

[Dr. Johanne Sloan: *Joyce Wieland and the Feel of Solidarity*, Thursday 16 February, 7-9pm](#)

Dr. Johanne Sloan is a professor of Art History at Concordia University. She has written extensively about Joyce Wieland, including the book *Joyce Wieland's The Far Shore* (University of Toronto Press, 2010), and the e-book *Joyce Wieland: Life and Work* (Art Canada Institute, 2014). She also co-edited (with August Klintberg) a special issue of the *Journal of Canadian Art History* on Wieland, in 2020.

[Curator Tour with Darryn Doull, 4 March 1 pm](#)

A free and intimate guided tour of *Joyce Wieland: A Clutter of Love* with KWAG's curator, Darryn Doull.

About KWAG

KWAG is Waterloo Region's leading public art gallery, connecting people and ideas through art, with a focus on the best of contemporary culture. For the benefit of current and future generations, the Gallery collects, preserves, researches, interprets, and exhibits the visual arts and offers dynamic public programming relating to the visual arts, all with a view to inspiring creativity and an appreciation of the visual arts in the Region. Established in 1956 and incorporated in 1968, KWAG is a non-profit organization open to the public and administered in the public trust. The Gallery emphasizes contemporary art, often premiering works by Canadian and international artists.

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

For high resolution image and logo downloads please visit [Joyce Wieland: A Clutter of Love](#)



Image Credits (left to right)

Joyce Wieland, *Artist on Fire*, 1983. Oil on canvas. 107.2 x 130 cm. Collection of The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Purchase, 1984. © Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa.

Joyce Wieland, *Fire at the River*, 1986. Oil on canvas. 86.6 x 82 cm. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery: Gift of Mr. Irving Zucker, 1992. © National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

Joyce Wieland, *Shawnadithit*, 1986. Oil on canvas. 192.5 x 270.7 cm. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery: Gift of Mr. Irving Zucker, 1992. © National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.