

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

Job Opportunity: Curator

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is the largest public art gallery in Waterloo Region with a mission of connecting people and ideas through art with the best of contemporary culture. With an operating budget around \$1.2million, the team is committed to presenting great art, facilitating learning, and increasing access for our audiences with a focus on inclusivity and diversity at all levels of operations and programs.

The Gallery is searching for a Curator who is a collaborative, dynamic leader and who will shape our presentation of contemporary art in line with our mission and vision. KWAG is committed to being an employer that reflects our community and fosters an inclusive workplace. We welcome and encourage candidates who are women, BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+ and people with disabilities to apply for this incredible opportunity.

This is a full-time position where a candidate can make a significant impact and inspire diverse audiences at a time of dramatic changes in the art museum world.

Salary range: \$55-65,000 based on qualifications and experience.

OVERVIEW

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Curator serves as a key member of the Gallery's senior management team working to expand the impact of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery by creating and sustaining an exciting and relevant contemporary art program.

The Curator collaborates with colleagues across the Gallery to strategically lead and effectively deliver on curatorial priorities aligned with KWAG's overall vision, with a focus on exhibition development, programming and collection building.

The Curator will be a dynamic, visionary, and productive individual who will guide the acquisition, presentation, publication and interpretation of contemporary art.

The ideal Curator candidate is flexible, experimental, creative, and collaborative, with a passion for connecting with our guests and diverse communities, and embraces innovative ideas. Experience in creating spaces, programs, exhibitions, and acquisitions is critically important as are excellent speaking, writing, and research abilities.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Curator is charged with stewarding all activities related to the exhibition program in a very collaborative process. The key areas of this work include:

- Contribute to a long-term vision for the Gallery that emphasizes contemporary art
- Identify and research significant trends, issues, and opportunities in the visual arts

- Develop a contemporary art exhibition program that includes solo and thematic shows, commissions, residencies, and installation works and appropriate related publications
- Guide and motivate the Curatorial team (Preparator, Assistant Curator/Registrar, and Curatorial Assistant) to deliver on goals and projects aligned with the Gallery's mission, vision and values
- Responsible for Permanent Collection development and dissemination of research to provide the widest possible access to both in-house staff and the public
- Foster strong relationships with artists, donors, employees, volunteers and other stakeholders
- Work with fellow staff to ensure the best available standards of care and protection for all works in the Permanent Collection and borrowed art works
- Work in close partnership with Public Programs colleagues to contribute to programs related to the Collection and exhibitions, including but not limited to lectures, tours, workshops, and other interpretation efforts
- Serve as an ambassador for the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery locally, nationally, and internationally by being an active presence in the visual arts as well as with the general public
- Assist in exhibition and Collection related fundraising by providing necessary project and object information and participating in grant writing and personal solicitations to potential donors including corporations, foundations and individuals
- Supervise guest curators, consultants and support staff including interns as required
- Work with colleagues across our museum to ensure budgets and financial goals are aligned to the overall direction of the Gallery

SKILLS

- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to lead and maintain productive working relationships with both internal and external stakeholders
- Strong time management and organizational skills with the ability to work well under pressure and meet competing priorities and deadlines
- Excellent problem solving and analytical skills, with demonstrated ability to make sound decisions
- Ability to conceptualize, analyze, prioritize and make decisions aligned to exhibition production, from research and conceptualization through all aspects of project implementation
- Great analytical abilities, including budgeting and resource management
- Knowledge of technical and aesthetic dimension of exhibition installation, from planning to design and implementation
- Ability to identify artistic works of high quality
- Inclusive individual who values and utilizes the expertise of diverse individuals and groups (artists, teams, colleagues, other museums, stakeholders) as they achieve curatorial goals and projects together, locally and globally
- Innovative thinker and an inspiring leader who guides and motivates a team to deliver superior results using available resources and budget
- Flexible and embraces change, diverse points of view and creative problem solving

- Curious, open minded learner who stays up to date on museum trends and best practices that engage audiences through art, collections and exhibitions

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants are expected to show evidence of a commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and the promotion of a respectful and collegial learning and working environment.

- Master's degree in Art History or equivalent as evidenced by publication of significant writing and the organization of exhibitions
- Knowledge of and comprehensive vision for contemporary art
- Minimum three years of curatorial experience in the area of contemporary art in a diversity of media
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including public speaking and writing
- Excellent working relationships with collectors, artists, gallerists, and scholars
- Demonstrated ability to lead and inspire a team
- Proven track record in partnering and collaborating with colleagues inside and outside a region
- Flexibility to work evenings and weekends as required and to travel
- Experience managing budgets
- Demonstrated project management skills including ability to meet deadlines and handle multiple tasks simultaneously
- Ability to interact respectfully, collegially, and professionally with all employees and volunteers at all levels of responsibility
- Ability to maintain the highest ethics as they relate to all aspects of curatorial practice, and to understand and maintain the highest levels of confidentiality

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this position.

Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Physical Demands: The position requires verbal and written conversation with others. Vision abilities required by the job include close vision and colour perception.

Work Environment: Work will be performed in an office environment, museum spaces, and in communities served. The noise level in the work environment is usually low to moderate. This position requires some independent overnight travel for research, professional meetings, transporting art works to venues nationally and internationally and other travel as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

To be considered for this opportunity, please submit your cover letter and resume to Shelly Mitchel, Director of Finance and Administration, at smitchell@kwag.on.ca. Applications will be accepted until **18 June, 2021**, or until the position is filled.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those being considered for an interview will be contacted.

During the recruitment process, applicants may request accommodation at any time by contacting Shelly Mitchell at smitchell@kwag.on.ca or 519-579-5860 x 212.