

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

For immediate release

KWAG's annual exhibition of student talent goes online in *Expressions 45: Rework/Revisit*

12 May 2020, Kitchener ON – While the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery remains closed during our provincial state of emergency, staff working remotely from home have organized and opened an online version of their annual exhibition of student artwork from across Waterloo Region that was cancelled for the first time in this tradition's history due to COVID-19. Featuring artworks in a wide range of media by over fifty local students, *Expressions 45: Rework/Revisit* is now available for online viewing at kwag.ca/digital-exhibitions.

"*Expressions* has been an important part of our exhibition program for 45 years," explains Shirley Madill, Executive Director. "The COVID-19 pandemic may have prevented us from showcasing work by Waterloo Region students physically this year, but it has not impeded us from sharing their creativity online."

In responding to this year's theme of *Rework/Revisit*, participating students have shared works that have vital resonance today with the ongoing challenge of adapting creatively to an ever-changing reality. Among the stories the young artists included with their creations are candid statements of new skills learned, shifts in creative decisions, and in the words of Grade 8 Vista Hills Public School student Amelia Shields, a desire to inspire positivity and hope: "I want my work to bring magic and happiness into people's lives and I know that, in these challenging times, we all could use a little magic!"



Community Quilt by Grades 1-7 students from One Forest Montessori School

"*Expressions* has always been an opportunity for KWAG to collaborate with local teachers to showcase the talent of students from across our region," notes Stephen Lavigne, Director of Public Programs, who commends the many teachers who responded to KWAG's recent call for digital submissions to ensure their students' works would be included in spite of ongoing school closures. "Presenting *Expressions 45* digitally allows a larger audience to witness the creativity that our next generation of young artists has to offer."

"I am always impressed with the calibre of work produced by students in our schools," adds Shirley Madill. "I encourage all to take a moment, especially during this challenging time, to journey through their works of art online!"

Expressions 45: Rework/Revisit is generously supported by Activa.

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.

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HOURS AND ADMISSION

KWAG remains closed to the public until further notice to help contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Visit us online at kwag.ca to explore our online programs.

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

