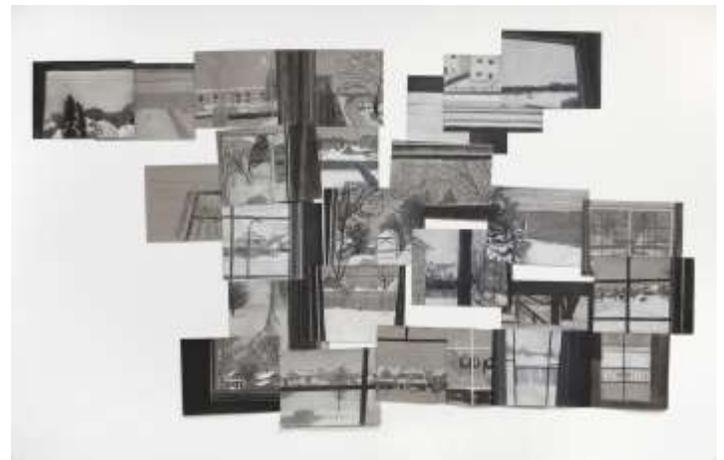


For immediate release

Youth artists share their pandemic perspectives in *Expressions 46: Through a New Lens*

30 March 2021, Kitchener ON – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery’s annual exhibition of student artwork from across Waterloo Region has gone online for the second time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Featuring artworks in a wide range of media, from painting to claymation, by over fifty local students, *Expressions 46: Through a New Lens* is now open to the public for online viewing at kwag.ca/digital-exhibitions until 23 May.

“This year’s theme, *Through a New Lens*, is especially relevant as these young artists have been forced to see their homes, their schools, their friends and their families differently over the previous year,” notes KWAG Director of Public Programs, Stephen Lavigne. In their responses to this year’s theme, participating students have shared candid impressions of their changing realities, from the challenges of social distancing to a renewed focus on life in the home during lockdown.



Students from Cameron Heights Collegiate, *Insight*, 2020.
Photo: Robert McNair.

This year’s InSight exhibition, presented as a part of *Expressions 46*, features artistic collaborations by students at Cameron Heights Collegiate and St. Mary’s High School, which were facilitated over Zoom by this year’s Artist in Residence, Sarah Kernohan. Faced with the challenge of working together while apart, students worked with Kernohan to create detailed drawings of views from their homes that are now displayed online as collaged installations of their shared perspectives.

“When the Gallery first opened in a bicycle shed behind Kitchener Collegiate Institute, our founders understood the importance of art education for youth,” explains Shirley Madill, Executive Director. “That vision continues now that *Expressions* is in its 46th year. The arts are crucial to creating well-rounded and forward-thinking learners and leaders, and we are proud to collaborate with schools, parents and teachers to secure a creative future for our young people.”

Expressions 46: Through a New Lens is supported by the Waterloo Region District School Board and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. The Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of Sun Life Financial as our Premier Exhibitions Sponsor.

- 30 -

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 4300 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 is open to the public Tuesday to Saturday from 11:00am-5:00pm and Sunday from 1:00-5:00pm. We encourage visitors to familiarize themselves with our [COVID-19 Visitor Policy](#) when planning their visit.

Admission to KWAG's exhibitions is free, courtesy of CIBC Wood Gundy – Allan Bush Investment Group.

