

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Wins Ontario Association of Art Galleries Exhibition Award for *Planting one Another*

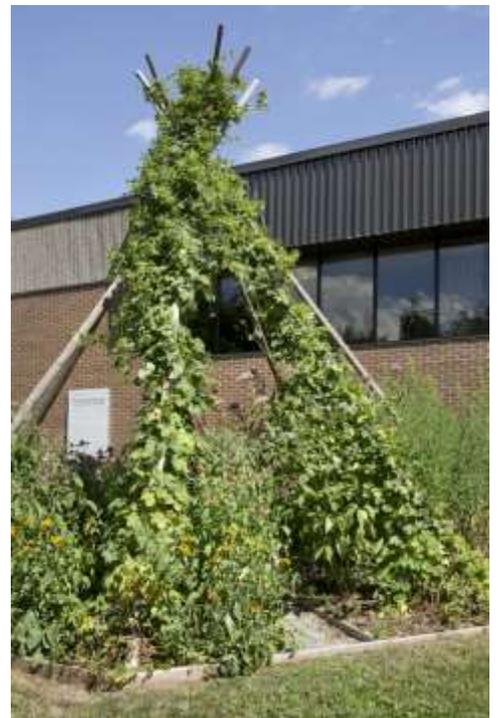
1 December 2020, Kitchener ON – The artistic leadership of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery was honoured at the Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG) Awards as the proud recipients of the Award for **Exhibition of the Year (Budget under \$10,000)** for *Planting one Another*, an outdoor exhibition curated by First Nations artist and scholar Lisa Myers. Award winners were recognized at a virtual ceremony on Monday 30 November.

This year's recognition marks the third consecutive year that the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery has received one of OAAG's coveted Exhibition Awards following previous wins for *Maggie Groat: Suns also Seasons* in 2018 and *Post Script* in 2019, an exhibition also curated by Lisa Myers. This award also follows upon our success at this year's Arts Awards Waterloo Region event last Friday 27 November where Senior Curator Crystal Mowry was recognized for her outstanding achievements at KWAG, while Board Vice-President Judith Stephens-Wells took home the Arts Philanthropist Award.

"It is always an honour to receive an OAAG Award through this peer-adjudicated process," says Shirley Madill, KWAG's Executive Director. "*Planting one Another*, which re-creates the gardens Mike MacDonald created in the 1990s across the country, resonates perhaps even more powerfully today as we face serious ecological concerns and a need to revisit our relationship with the natural environment. I am pleased that this work was recognized and extend congratulations to Lisa Myers as well as Crystal Mowry and her curatorial team for their work on this project."

Planting one Another is a re-planting of a medicine and butterfly garden by the late Mi'kmaq artist Mike MacDonald. Produced in partnership with the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford, this garden features a selection of native medicine plants surrounding a core of sweetgrass, all growing beneath a canopy of European hops supported by a structure of tipi poles that have become a familiar fixture on the Gallery grounds facing Queen Street North. This living artwork encourages slow contemplation of the care and co-existence found in nature, and has fueled research by artists and biologists in York University's Department of Environmental Studies where Myers teaches.

"By restoring a living artwork, we are signalling a shift in how we define care within our institution," says Crystal Mowry. "Mistakes have been made in our long history, yet each



Mike MacDonald, *Planting one Another*, 2019-ongoing. Installation view, KWAG, 2020. Photo: Robert McNair.

summer presents an opportunity to correct course and recognize the power of learning in public.”

The OAAG Awards celebrate and recognize the exhibitions, publications and programming of Ontario’s public art galleries over the past year. Due to COVID-19, this year’s virtual ceremony presented awards in a reduced number of categories for Exhibitions as well as the Changemaker BIPOC Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. Within this limited field, KWAG was honoured to be recognized for outstanding achievement in our exhibitions.

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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.

MEDIA CONTACT

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HOURS AND ADMISSION

Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm

Please visit our website for complete COVID-19 visitor information

Admission to KWAG’s exhibitions is free, courtesy of

