

## Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Wins Ontario Association of Art Galleries Exhibition Award for Maggie Groat: *Suns also Seasons*

21 November 2018, Kitchener ON – The artistic leadership of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery was honoured at this week’s 41<sup>st</sup> Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG) Awards where KWAG was the proud recipient the Award for **Exhibition of the Year (Budget under \$10,000)** for *Maggie Groat: Suns also Seasons*. Award winners were recognized at a gala ceremony at the Harbourfront Centre Theatre in Toronto on Monday 19 November.



Installation views of *Maggie Groat: Suns also Seasons*. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 2017. Photos: Jimmy Limit

In addition to this recognition, KWAG received an **Honourable Mention in the Art Book Award category for *ALMANAC***, edited by Maggie Groat and designed by Jimmy Limit to accompany *Suns also Seasons*. This unique artist book compiles marginalized knowledge from nineteen contributors as a functional resource that eludes linear concepts of time and proposes alternative paths to shared knowledge.

“The central core of what we do at the Gallery is artistic leadership in visual art – excellence in research, exhibitions, education, public programming and publications, all with a focus on the best in contemporary culture,” says Shirley Madill, KWAG’s Executive Director. “These awards, juried by our professional peers from across the province, are a welcome validation of the calibre of work done here by KWAG’s talented staff.”

*Maggie Groat: Suns also Seasons* referenced cyclical time with a new site-specific body of work that drew upon KWAG’s physical space and Permanent Collection to create murals and sculptures using materials salvaged from past exhibitions. This environment became a gathering space for images and people that, in the jury’s comments, “give new meaning and form to what can often be recycled or thrown away,” and displayed Groat’s collages alongside works selected from our Permanent Collection.

“Working with Maggie revealed just how important care and collaboration can be to our work,” says Crystal Mowry, curator of *Suns also Seasons*. “Attentively reflecting on all that can

be found – and overlooked – within an institution’s walls, Maggie imagined a contemplative space where the history of past efforts was honoured in meaningful ways.”

The OAAG Awards celebrate and recognize the exhibitions, publications and programming of Ontario’s public art galleries over the past year in nine major categories: Exhibition, Curatorial Writing, Art Writing, Public Program, Education, Art Publication, Design, Partnership, Lifetime Achievement, Colleague and Volunteer. With over 230 nominations received from 24 public art galleries in over twenty cities across Ontario, KWAG was honoured to be a shortlisted nominee in two additional categories: Thematic Exhibition of the Year (Budget Over \$20,000) for *Carry Forward* and an Art Book Award nomination for *Still Move; Brendan Fernandes*.

This year’s recognition builds upon KWAG’s record of success at the OAAG Awards, which includes the 2016 Design Award: Exhibition Catalogue for Kathe Gray’s work on *Jane Buyers: Gather... Arrange... Maintain*, an Honourable Mention for the 2014 catalogue *Milutin Gubash*, and the 2011 Exhibition Award for *Ernest Daetwyler: Reality in Reverse (barn raising)*.

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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

Stephanie Vegh, Manager, Media & Communications | 519.579.5860 x 218 |  
E: [svegh@kwag.on.ca](mailto:svegh@kwag.on.ca)

## KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

101 Queen Street N, Kitchener  
kwag.ca | 519.579.5860

## HOURS AND ADMISSION

T-W 9:30 am-5 pm, Thu 9:30 am-9 pm, Fri 9:30 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm  
Open before most Centre In The Square performances

Admission to KWAG’s exhibitions is free, courtesy of



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