

# Call for Curatorial Proposals: ***Paradigmatic Pulse***

**Canadian Curators. Individual or Collective.  
Intersectional Proposals. Challenging Institutional Practices.**

*A brand-new, fully funded curatorial opportunity for experimental projects and platforms that are socially engaged, community focused and critically rigorous.*

**Deadline: 14 April 2023**



## About the Gallery

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As Waterloo Region's leading public art gallery, The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) connects people and ideas through art. Its nationally-acclaimed exhibitions and programs welcome all to be inspired and challenged through a deepened understanding of ourselves, our cultures and our communities. For the benefit of current and future generations, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery collects, preserves, researches, interprets and exhibits the visual arts. It offers dynamic public programs that inspire creativity and an appreciation of the visual arts in the Region and beyond. Established in 1956 and incorporated in 1968, KWAG is a non-profit organization open to the public and administered in the public trust.

## Program Description

In a world where one of the only lasting truths is change, we have witnessed (and continue to be subject to) profound seismic shifts across social, cultural and environmental terrains. Communities rightfully demand that cultural institutions catch-up to meet the demands of their mandates, and to begin to fulfil the promise of their outsized potentials. The continued professionalization of contemporary curatorial labour runs in parallel to this specific historical moment. Curatorial work and the implicit pedagogy of the temporary exhibition carries a sense of urgency to facilitate context(s) that are not already historicized. Instead, it is often in the milieu of defining and shaping a body: of relations, knowledge, materials, experiences and connections.

Over the last decade, the shortcomings and limitations of status quo cultural programming have been laid bare. Aside from a pandemic induced acceleration toward digital platforms and virtual encounters, institutions are reaching for something else (something *otherwise*) that can facilitate the sort of experiences, representations and support that communities need.

***Paradigmatic Pulse*** aims to support a Canadian curator in the development of an exhibition that probes the paradigmatic boundaries of exhibition making and visitor engagement. We welcome intersectional proposals that push our understanding of what constitutes an exhibition, redefines how to hold space in a contemporary art gallery and nurtures a sensitive inclusion of difference. Let us practice *other* types of discursive space that can challenge institutional practices/processes while encouraging the growth and strength of community organization in a time of crises and collapse.

# Financial Outline

The total budget for *Paradigmatic Pulse 2023* is up to \$20,000.

**The successful Curator will receive a curatorial fee of \$5,000.** These funds will be managed by the Curator in order to prepare all curatorial aspects of the exhibition, including: site visit(s) at KWAG; production of original writing for online and within the exhibition (in whatever form is appropriate to your proposal, possibly including didactics, extended labels, collaborative fictions and other experimental forms); administrative responsibilities (communications with KWAG as needed for logistical and conceptual clarity); communications and development with artist(s); and research.

**Up to an additional \$15,000 is available for the exhibition and will be managed by KWAG.** These funds will cover any

exhibition-related expenses, including but not limited to: artist fees (CARFAC – KWAG is a Category III institution); artist commission fees; loan fees; shipping and transportation; packing costs; special installation requirements; image permissions; production costs for any required graphics, texts, printed material, etc.; programming; equipment rental; anything else required to successfully facilitate the exhibition.

KWAG will provide in-kind support, such as marketing, promotion and design, condition reporting, conservation and technical troubleshooting (within reason). KWAG will manage all agreements with external parties, including lenders, artists and other contributors to the project. KWAG will also manage all practical logistical aspects, such as contracting shipping and installation technicians as required.

# Application Requirements

## Who can apply:

- This program is open to any Canadian citizen / permanent resident that is recognized by their peers as a Curator (not-for-profit / artist-run / independent / commercial / other)
- You may apply individually or as a collective
- There are no age limits
- There are no minimum requirements for years of experience or education
- KWAG embraces a culture of belonging that enhances our capacity to meaningfully address and serve the interests of our diverse community. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized persons, women, persons with disabilities, and people of diverse sexual and gender identities. Our values regarding equity and diversity are intrinsically linked with our unwavering commitment to excellence.



Left & Right: Installation views, *Joyce Wieland: A Clutter of Love*, at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery from 21 January – 21 May 2023. Photos: KWAG.

All applications must include:

# 1 CONTACT

Your legal name, chosen name (if different than legal name), and contact information

# 2 STATEMENT

Introductory Statement providing a narrative description of curatorial practice and professional interests (up to 250 words)

# 3 CV

Up to 3 pages

# 4 PROPOSAL

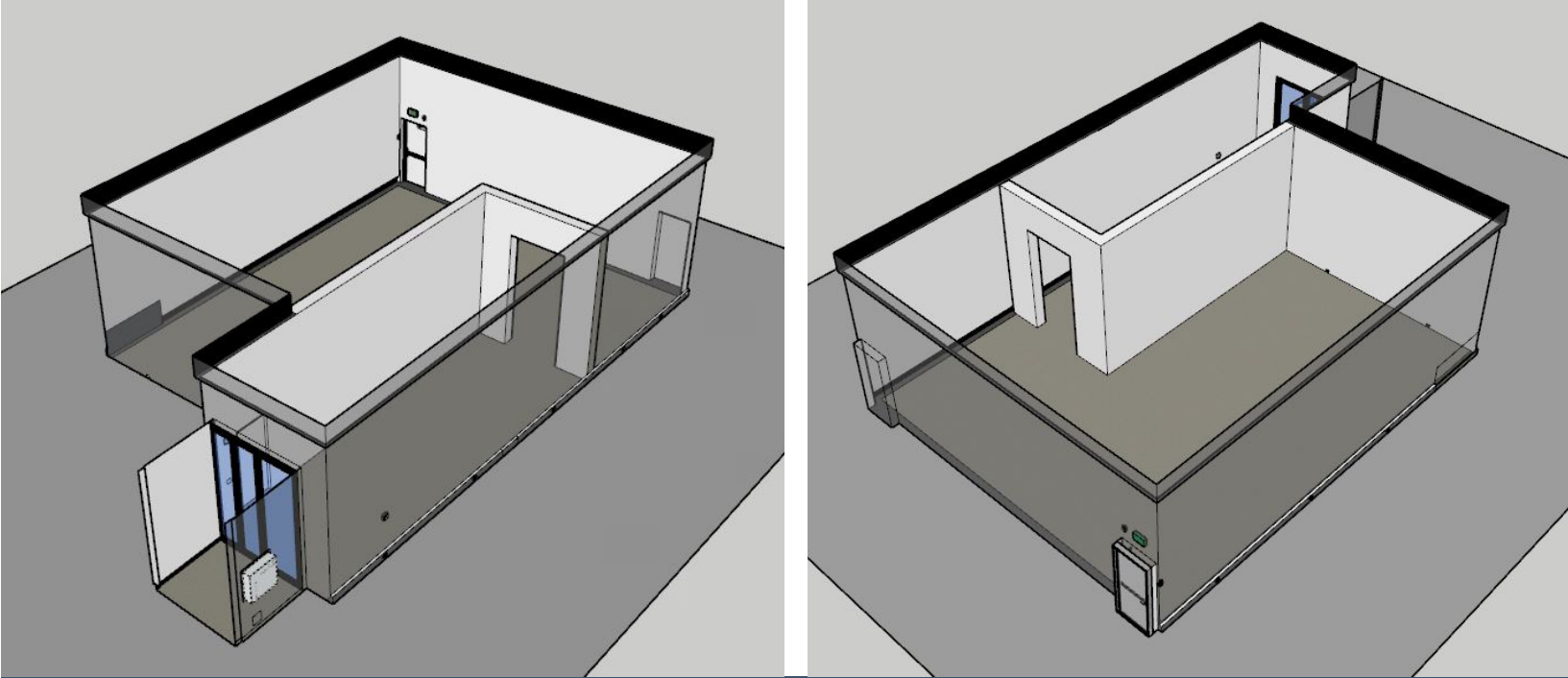
Exhibition Proposal, including the following components:

- a. Proposed concept for the exhibition and relationship to the Paradigmatic Pulse Program Description, including any key programming (1-2 pages)
- b. Key works or images with descriptions (name, title, date, medium, dimensions) (up to 10)
- c. Detailed budget (must fit within budget outlined above). Must include:
  - i. Artist fees (commissions, CARFAC, or rationale otherwise)
  - ii. Installation expenses
  - iii. Ideal programming and/or outreach
- d. Audio-Visual Requirements and Equipment List
- e. A writing sample, preferably from a curatorial and/or critical context (no minimum or maximum length)
- f. Floorplan
  - i. Refer to provided gallery floorplans provided at bottom
  - ii. Also understanding that the exact spatial realization may shift and grow through discussions with KWAG and other contributors
- g. Description of any unique or unusual installation requirements

# 5 FORMS

Completed Agreement and Consent Form (Appendix C)

Please submit application materials as a single PDF. Complete submissions must be received by the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery by **5pm EST on Friday 14 April 2023** to be considered. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. All submission materials will be retained by the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery.



## Floorplan

The successful exhibition will be installed in the Eastman Gallery at KWAG.

Key information:

- 1,265 square feet
- Approximately 265 linear feet of usable wall space
- Wall height is 13’ 5”
- There are 8 electrical receptacles around the perimeter of the room, recessed into the baseboard
- Ceiling is not load bearing, but it is possible to anchor onto internal steel struts above

Applicants may request a working SketchUp 2017 file of the floorplan from KWAG through the contact provided at bottom, if desired.

Images of the gallery are included in Appendix A + B.

# Adjudication Criteria

Please consider the following prompts in your proposal:

- Does the exhibition push against perceived paradigmatic boundaries of contemporary curatorial practice, habits or zones of institutional comfort?
  - » How are these understood or contextualized within the proposal, and;
  - » How are those assumptions challenged through the realization of the project?
- Is the project grounded in a pedagogical or relational capacity that encourages the growth and strength of community organization in a time of crises and collapse?
- Practical considerations such as allotted budget, required technical resources, staff support, and spatial considerations, or, how these are rationalized within the proposal.
- Overall feasibility within available time and budget

# Selection Process

Applications will be assessed by the KWAG Curatorial Department based on the following criteria:

- Strength and originality of curatorial proposal
- Connection to the *Paradigmatic Pulse Program Description*
- Consideration of **Adjudication Criteria**
- Potential impact for participating artists, collaborators, KWAG and members of the Waterloo Region
- Feasibility of the exhibition within budget and timeframe

# Project Schedule

| Date                              | Deliverable   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 14 April 2023                     | Proposals due by 5:00pm EST   |
| 15 - 28 April 2023                | Submissions review<br>Note: KWAG may contact applicants to request additional information |
| Week of 1 May 2023                | Successful applicant notified and agreement signed  |
| May 2023                          | All external agreements finalized<br>Artist contracts, loan agreements, etc.              |
| June 2023                         | List of works finalized   |
| July 2023                         | Text development (online, didactic, labels, other)  |
| 15 September 2023                 | All artwork / objects on site at KWAG   |
| 2-13 October 2023                 | Installation  |
| 14 October 2023 - 4 February 2024 | Exhibition on view at KWAG (16 weeks)   |
| 20 October 2023, 6:00-10:00pm     | Opening Reception   |

# Contract

The successful applicant will enter into a contract with the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG). The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery reserves the right to terminate the contract (with or without cause) at any time.

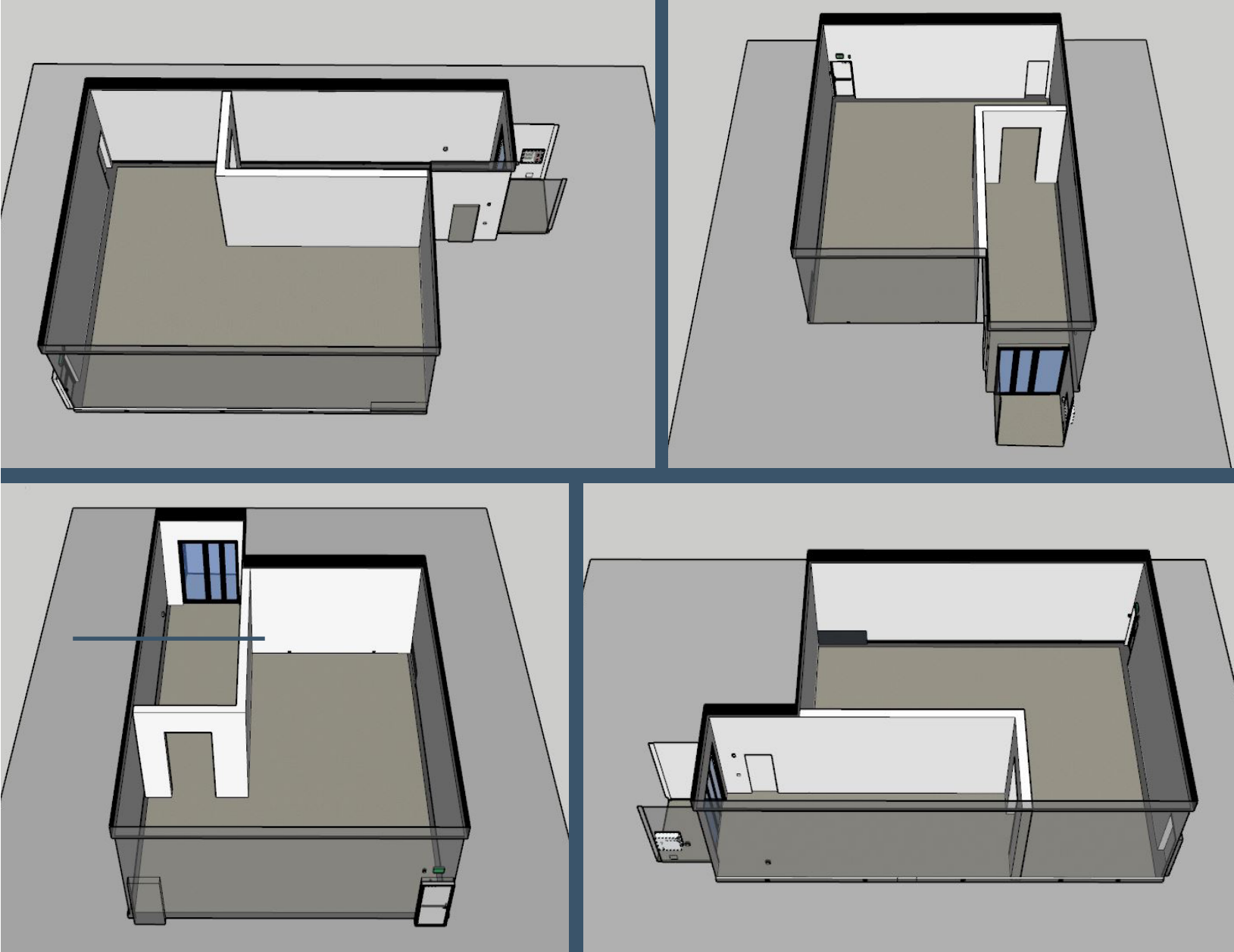
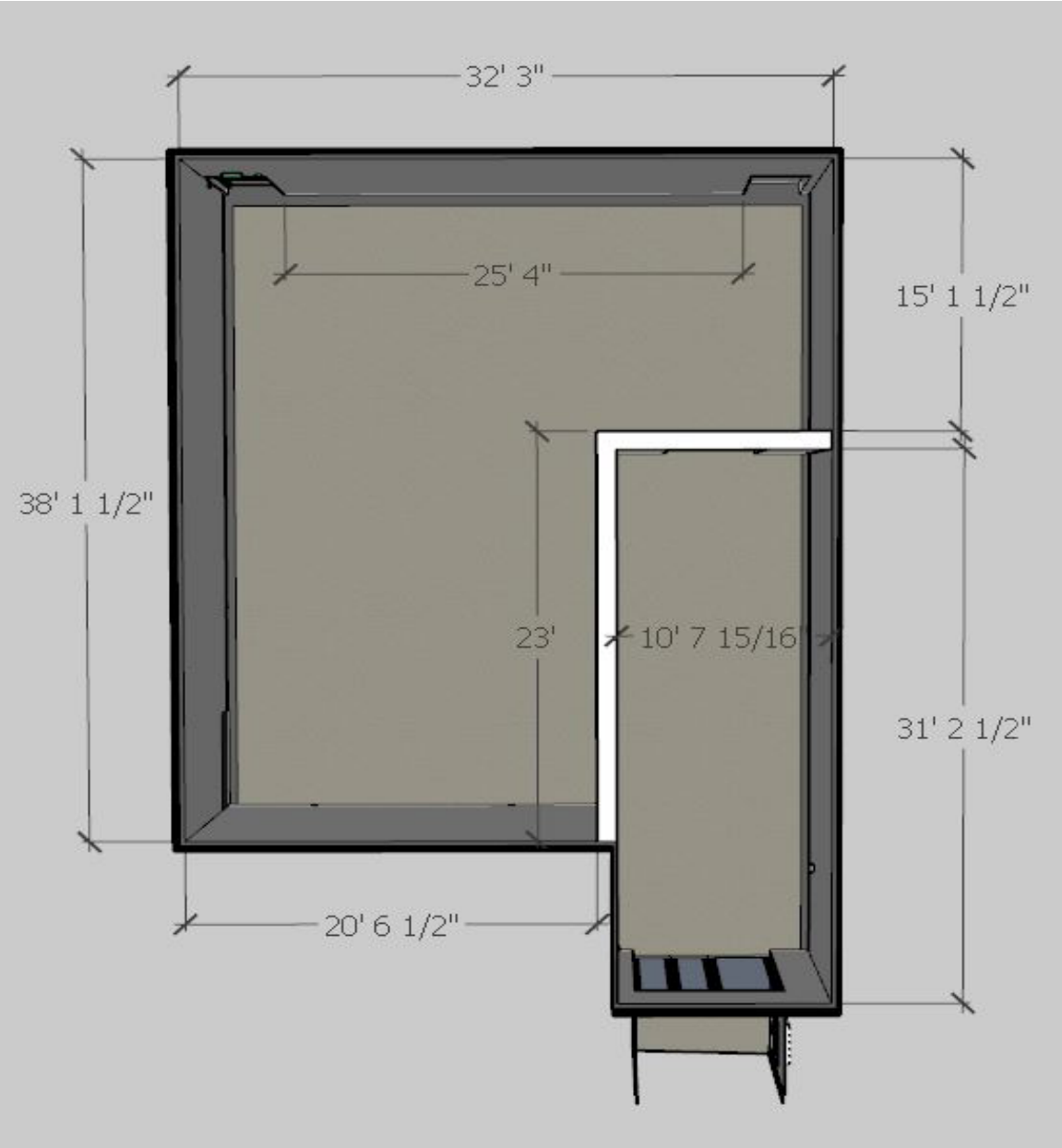
# Contact



If you have any questions, please contact:  
Darryn Doull, Curator (he/him)  
ddoull@kwag.on.ca

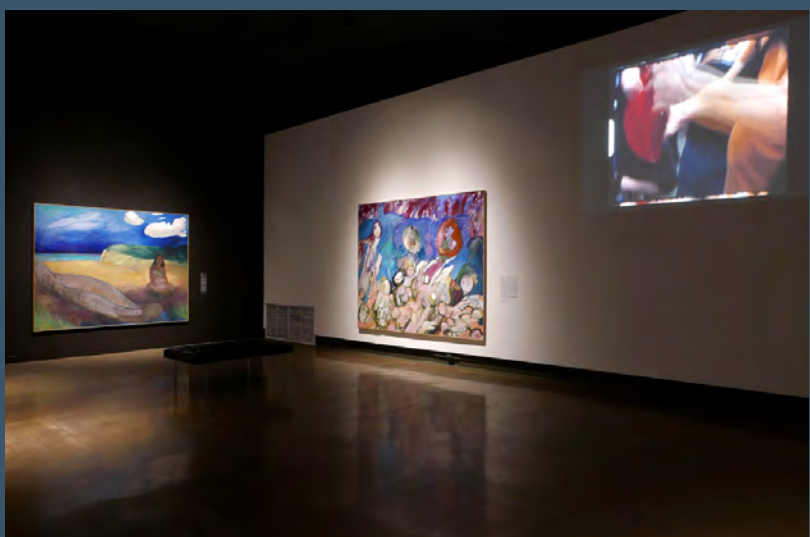
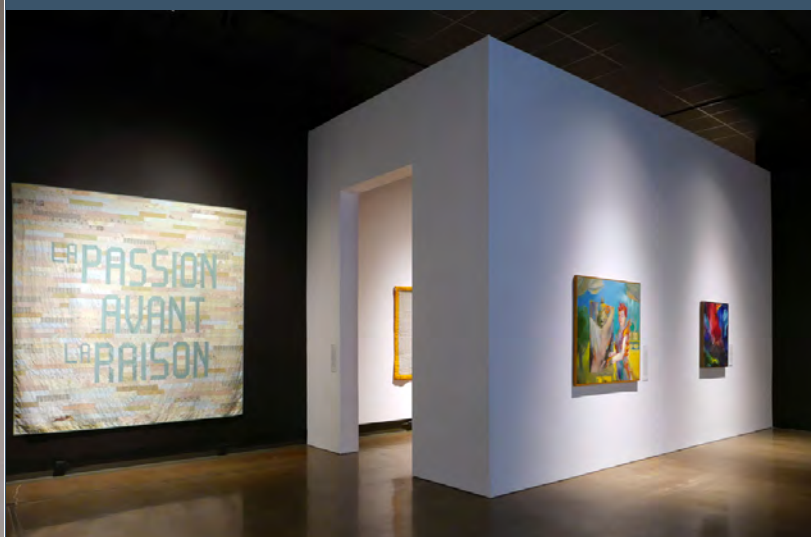
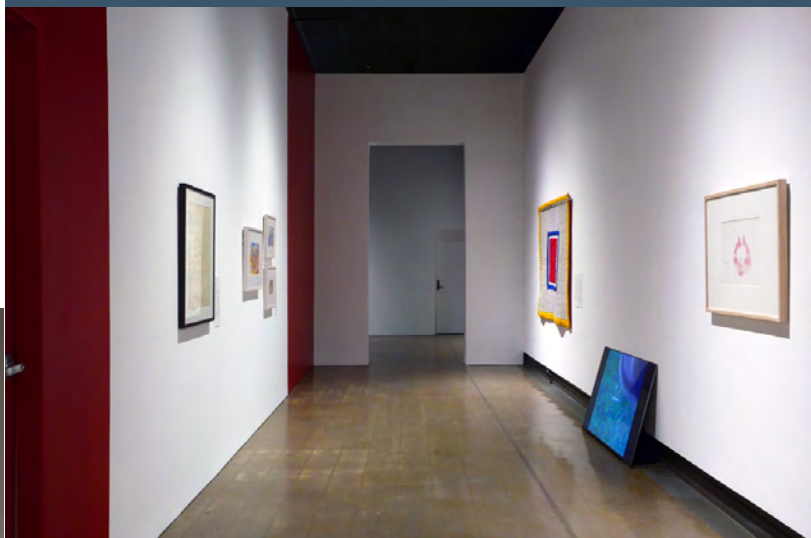
# Appendix A: Floorplan

Dimensions and sketches of the Eastman Gallery



# Appendix B: Sample Exhibition in the Gallery

Installation views, *Joyce Wieland: A Clutter of Love*, at the  
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery from 21 January – 21 May 2023.  
Featuring Joyce Wieland, August Klintberg and Fernanda Pessoa.  
Curated by Darryn Doull. Photos courtesy of KWAG.



# Appendix C: Agreement and Consent Form

Submissions that do not include a completed Agreement and Consent Form will be considered incomplete and removed from consideration.

## Application Checklist

Please ensure you have included the following items in your application:

Your legal name, chosen name (if different than legal name), and contact information

Introductory Statement (up to 250 words)

CV (up to 3 pages)

Exhibition Proposal, including: the proposed concept, relationship to call, and key programming (1-2 pages); key works / images (up to 10); budget; AV requirements and equipment list; writing sample (no limit); Floorplan; description of unique or unusual installation requirements.

A signed Agreement and Consent Form (Appendix C)

## Terms and Conditions

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I have read *Paradigmatic Pulse* call for proposal as outlined by the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery and that I am submitting my credentials and exhibition proposal for review. Should the submission of these credentials not result in selection for the Residency, I shall not hold any agent or employee of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery or any related funders, as may exist now or in the future, personally liable.

I stipulate and agree that under no circumstances may I or my representatives or others acting for me, lobby members, agents or consultants of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, nor engage others to lobby on my behalf for advancement in the selection. I understand that all decisions made by the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery are final and that they may suspend, delay or cancel the project at its option at any time and without penalty.

I understand that failure to follow these terms and conditions will result in disqualification.

Name

Date

Signature