

For immediate release

*Hidden Histories Brought to Light in the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery's
Fall Exhibitions*

25 September 2017, Kitchener ON – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is proud to announce the opening of *Carry Forward* on Friday 29 September. All are welcome to attend a free public talk by curator Lisa Myers at 7:00 pm as well as the opening reception at 8:00 pm.

Carry Forward takes account of intergenerational losses and gains through the work of eleven artists who contend with documents and documentation. This artwork sheds light on the stories, details and lived experiences that, by chance or deliberate choice, are erased from the official record. Artists included in this exhibition are Maria Thereza Alves, Marjorie Beaucage, Deanna Bowen, Dana Claxton, Brenda Draney, John Hampton, Jamelie Hassan, Mike MacDonald, Nadia Myre, Krista Belle Stewart and Maika'i Tubbs.



Deanna Bowen, "1911 Anti Creek-Negro Petition" from *Immigration of Negroes from the United States to Western Canada 1910-1911.*, Edition 1/2, 2013. Inkjet print on archival paper, 21.59 cm × 27.94 cm. Archival Permissions: Library Archives Canada. Photo: Michael Maranda, Courtesy of The Art Gallery of York University. © Deanna Bowen.

Curator Lisa Myers was inspired by documentary filmmakers and artists in the realization of *Carry Forward*, notably the late Mi'kmaq artist Mike MacDonald whose 1987 video installation *Electronic Totem* has been carefully remounted for this exhibition using new digital transfers. "*Carry Forward* was inspired by thinking about the way Mike MacDonald's video art informed and was informed by his practice as a documentarian," Myers explains. "Thinking through the various forms of documentation that manifest in artwork, I sought to bring together artworks that propose different modes of understanding how realities are registered, contested, and even fabricated within the framework of an archive." (*continues on page 2*)

Documents such as petitions and treaties capture the sociopolitical biases of their times, as seen in Deanna Bowen's visually staggering reproduction of a 1911 petition opposing the immigration of Black-Muscogee Creek peoples from the United States to Western Canada. The installation resonates as both an oppressive grid of 236 pages and a haunting record of the individual names inscribed there.

In *A History of Cape Spear*, John Hampton raises questions of authorship and authority by upholding artist Duane Linklater's years-long efforts to assert contemporary Indigenous experience in Wikipedia's record on this easternmost point of what is now known as Canada. In this first installation of *A History of Cape Spear* to be credited solely to Hampton, we see the artist assuming stewardship over a work that has been carried forward from its original maker.

"The concept of care is foundational to the work that we do," says Crystal Mowry, KWAG's Senior Curator. "Traditionally, museums were understood to be the custodians of public treasures and by extension, public memory. Today, we recognize that this duty of care extends beyond objects to include our fellow citizens. Our fall exhibitions on storytelling and the gathering of documents invite the public to reflect on inheritance and how it shapes our respective worldviews."

Carry Forward continues to 14 January 2018 and will be accompanied by a three-part film series on 15, 22 and 29 October, and an Artist Panel Discussion on Thursday 23 November. Please visit kwag.ca for complete program listings.

This exhibition was generously supported by the Ontario Arts Council's Aboriginal Curatorial Projects grant, The Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation - The Musagetes Fund, and the Allan MacKay Curatorial Endowment Fund, established by the Musagetes Arts and Culture Fund, held at The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation. *Carry Forward* was realized with the support of the artists, private collectors, Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels, Woodland Cultural Centre, Vtape, and the McIntosh Gallery at Western University.

ALSO ON VIEW:

Storylines-The Long and the Short of It offers up the stuff of dreams and lore through selected works from the Permanent Collection. Each work reveals the distinct ways in which artists relate stories from the fantastic to the mundane, and invite the viewer in turn to search for their own interpretations.

An after-work tour and discussion of *Storylines* will be hosted by the exhibition's curators on Thursday 12 October at 5:30 pm.

- 30 -

ABOUT THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

Established in 1956, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) is Waterloo Region's oldest and largest 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 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
E: svegh@kwag.on.ca | 519.579.5860, ext. 218

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



Making the Arts
More Accessible®