

For immediate release

## Senior Curator Crystal Mowry departing for new opportunity at the MacKenzie Art Gallery

**26 May 2021, Kitchener ON** – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery announces the forthcoming departure of Senior Curator Crystal Mowry, effective 16 July, 2021, in order to take on an exciting opportunity at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina as their new Director of Programs overseeing all the Gallery's curatorial and education initiatives. She will be joining the gallery on 3 August, 2021.

"Crystal's departure is a loss to the Gallery and community and it saddens us to see her go," notes KWAG Executive Director Shirley Madill. "The impact she has made in KWAG's exhibition programming has been nothing short of remarkable. However, this is a terrific opportunity for her. The Mackenzie Art Gallery is a great gallery and I know that she will do extraordinary work there in this important position. We wish her the best success and rest assured that KWAG will continue on the path she has paved to embrace diverse voices in our programming."

Throughout her past 13 years of curatorial practice at KWAG, Mowry has championed artists who had not yet received adequate representation in the art world, helping them to realize challenging new projects. She will be relocating to Regina this summer, working closely with Executive Director & CEO John G. Hampton and the Gallery's Programs team to develop a cohesive artistic vision for programs, and cultivate meaningful and collaborative alliances with artists and community.



Crystal Mowry. Photo: Daniella Okezie.

"It is a dream opportunity to be joining the MacKenzie Art Gallery at this point in its history," says Mowry. "Its strong foundation of work with Indigenous artists and curators coupled with its bold vision for how to be a more equitable institution speak to its role as a leader in our field. While an institution can hold only so much of what makes its respective communities who they are, I am honoured to be learning alongside colleagues who share a commitment to making our work more porous, more experimental, and ultimately, more human. I can't wait to be part of the effort that shapes its future."

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery will continue to work closely with Crystal Mowry in the coming weeks to ensure the continuity of our 2021 exhibition program, which will include her upcoming exhibition of works from KWAG's Permanent Collection, *A wave, in other words*, slated to open in June. The Gallery will also undertake a search to appoint a new Curator of Contemporary Art by September 2021.

## ABOUT CRYSTAL MOWRY

As Senior Curator at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG), Crystal Mowry often explores the tension between perceived authenticity and troubled forms of representation. As a curator operating primarily within the context of a public art museum, she treats her role as equal parts co-conspirator and translator, often seeking ways to support artists in the development of new projects. Her curatorial work includes group exhibitions such as *The Brain is wider than the Sky, I'll be your Mirror* and *The Perennials*, as well as solo projects in 2020 with Deanna Bowen and Aislinn Thomas. Her solo projects with Ontario-based artists Maggie Groat and Ernest Daetwyler have received Exhibition of the Year Awards from the Ontario Association of Art Galleries. In 2013 she co-curated *Romancing the Anthropocene*, one of the three zones commissioned by the City of Toronto for its annual Nuit Blanche event. She has written curatorial and experimental texts for various artist-focused projects, including *Still Move: Brendan Fernandes*, a monograph on the performance and installation work of Brendan Fernandes for which she also served as an editor. She regularly participates on advisory panels and industry juries, most notably for the Sobey Art Award (2015), the RBC Canadian Painting Competition (2018), and the Scotiabank Photography Award (2021).

## 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.

## MEDIA CONTACT

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## KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

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## HOURS AND ADMISSION

KWAG is currently closed to the public under the province-wide stay-at-home order.

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

