

For immediate release

Artist geetha thurairajah comes home for her first solo museum exhibition

27 March 2019, Kitchener ON – The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is honoured to present Waterloo-born, Brooklyn-based artist geetha thurairajah’s first solo exhibition in a public art gallery. *Migration is more momentous than ancient invasions* is a new site-specific installation of the artist’s paintings that will open to the public this Friday 29 March with a free Artist Talk at 7:00 pm, followed by a reception for the artist at 8:00.

“geetha’s project continues KWAG’s commitment to support early-career artists in the realization of their first museum exhibition,” explains Senior Curator Crystal Mowry. “geetha was born and raised in Waterloo Region, which makes it all the more meaningful to support her practice in this manner.”

As a painter whose images often begin as digital renderings, thurairajah disrupts the Western art historical traditions of image-making with works that present her subjects as fragments and shadows. Her visual vocabulary includes the spectre of a shapeshifting trickster – the *mahout*, a caregiver and trainer of elephants who frequently appears as a shadowy presence, disappearing into corners and weaving improbably throughout her painted scenes. For this exhibition, thurairajah takes a greater leap away from gallery conventions by taking her paintings off the wall and displaying them instead in a series of custom-fabricated room dividers created for KWAG’s Eastman Gallery.

Currently based in Brooklyn, New York, geetha thurairajah earned a BA from Wilfred Laurier University (2010) and a BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (2014). She was a finalist in the RBC Canadian Painting Competition in 2016 and 2018, receiving an Honourable Mention in 2018. Her work has been exhibited internationally, and has been included in recent group exhibitions at The Power Plant in Toronto and Oakville Galleries.

Migration is more momentous than ancient invasions will remain on view from 29 March to 16 June 2019.

Artist Talks at KWAG are supported by Momentum Developments and Sorbara Law.



geetha thurairajah, *I crawl on the ground and rise on a pillar*, 2018, acrylic and oil, 48 x 36". Photo courtesy of American Medium (New York, New York). © geetha thurairajah

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

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HOURS AND ADMISSION

Tuesday-Friday 9:30 am-5 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday 1-5 pm

Admission to KWAG's exhibitions is free, courtesy of



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