

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



War Museum exhibition addresses human duality and violent legacy

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO — The Robert Langen Gallery will host an exhibition of mixed media sculptures titled *War Museum* from October 17 to November 4. The media can meet artist Anitra Hamilton at a reception in the gallery on Wednesday, October 18, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Hamilton's work explores our cultural memory of war and takes issue with the glorification of war and weaponry at the expense of our legacy of violence. She uses a combination of natural elements, which represent regeneration and the cycle of ruin and renewal, and military objects, which symbolize territoriality and the darker side of the human psyche.

"I believe that we have an inherent self-destruct mechanism that causes us to be antagonistic and territorial," says Hamilton. "By participating in this exhibit, the viewer experiences both attraction and repulsion and is perhaps forced to come to terms with the duality of good and evil that we all harbor within us."

Since 1988, Hamilton's work has appeared in exhibitions in New York, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, including several shows at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

As Wilfrid Laurier University's visual arts centre since 1989, the Robert Langen Gallery provides knowledge, stewardship, appreciation and enjoyment of Canadian art and culture to the local community. The gallery is located in the John Aird Centre and is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday and 12 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free.

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