

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Exhibit at Robert Langen Gallery explores human-nature relationship**

*Artist draws on Japanese concept of Haragei to depict internal experience of nature*

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WATERLOO — The Robert Langen Gallery will host an exhibition of oil paintings on canvas and board titled *My Own Nature* from September 26 to October 14. The public can meet artist Melissa Doherty at a reception in the gallery on Wednesday, September 27, from 4 to 5 p.m.

The exhibition explores the relationship between human beings and nature through the Japanese concept of Haragei, a philosophy of communication that understands nature as based in the human body. Haragei suggests a subliminal contact with the natural environment and a form of communication that exists below the threshold of conscious awareness. The paintings of *My Own Nature* reflect Doherty's own sensual, internal experience of nature.

"My work follows an impulse to link nature with human sensibilities," says Doherty. "When I look at the natural elements, I feel them in my stomach and all over my body. There is an exchange or dialogue between us."

A graduate of both Nipissing University and the University of Waterloo, Doherty's work has appeared in a number of galleries throughout southwestern 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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