

NEWS RELEASE

**Wilfrid Laurier
University**



Show at Robert Langen Gallery depicts the *Grid* underlying society

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WATERLOO - The Robert Langen Gallery will host an exhibition of oil on canvas paintings titled *Grid* from January 30 to February 17. The public can meet artist Christopher Griffin at a reception in the gallery on Wednesday, January 31, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Griffin's work explores how the building blocks of society - highrise towers, power grids, stocks and bonds, traffic gridlock, TV screens, information, marketing and so on - form an infinite and interlocking grid. Having witnessed environmental degradation firsthand, he looks at how these blocks of progress have affected society, and he suggests the responsibility for society's ills lies with the powers and forces that form and run it.

"This work continues my interest in environmental and social issues," says Griffin. "My extensive travels have exposed me to environmental degradation on a massive scale. It becomes even more disturbing to witness these same destructive practices taking place here at home."

Griffin's work has appeared in exhibitions throughout Canada and in the United States and Honduras. His work has also received awards from the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition and the City of Kitchener Public Art Commission.

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.