

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
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## **Exhibition focuses on the art of contemporary quilt design** *Spontaneous Geometrics* showcases spirited designs by textile artist John Willard

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – The Robert Langen Gallery will host an opening reception for artist John Willard from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8. Willard’s exhibition of textiles, titled *Spontaneous Geometrics*, will run from January 7 to February 1.

*Spontaneous Geometrics* emerged from a workshop series Willard has been teaching since 1996. The workshops encourage the use of strong, bright colours and bold or unusual prints, rather than tiny, timid prints and subdued colours. They pushed Willard in his own quilt design. In most of the series, he has altered his approach and attempted to give the blacks and whites free rein while letting the colours be accents in the background.

“Much of the inspiration for this show has come from my students,” Willard says, “watching them emerge from the narrow confines of traditional design with such exuberance, shedding their sometimes innate fear of bright colours to produce works that startle even me.”

Willard graduated from the Fashion Arts Academy in Montreal in 1963 and Sheridan College in 1972. His work has been shown throughout Ontario and internationally, including shows at the Japan Contemporary Craft Exhibition and a touring exhibition to New Zealand.

As Wilfrid Laurier’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 noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. Admission is free.