

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
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## **Earthenware exhibition presents the pure forms of *Vessels*** *Artist Ingrid Nicolai inspired by ancient Egyptian art and other antiquities*

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WATERLOO – The Robert Langen Art Gallery will feature an exhibition of ceramic works, entitled *Vessels*, from March 2 to 24. Artist Ingrid Nicolai will attend an opening reception from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2.

This exhibition shows the pure forms of vessels from antiquity and the decorative motifs of ancient Egyptian art. Nicolai's work has drawn inspiration from the Mediterranean area and the culture of ancient Egypt since she travelled to Egypt 16 years ago. In preparation for the trip she took a university course in Egyptian art and architecture.

"I emphasize the qualities in ancient Egyptian art of order, style and formality through the placement, proportion and use of Egyptian motifs in my work," says Nicolai. "The colours were chosen specifically not only to emphasize the illusionary aspects of my work, but also to place the pieces into a contemporary context with reference to the Mediterranean Sea."

Nicolai has been creating sculptural ceramics for 20 years. Her work has been exhibited across Canada and internationally, and is part of permanent collections in Burlington, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec; and Suwon, Korea. Born in Germany, Nicolai immigrated to Canada in 1962 and eventually settled with her family in Oakville, Ontario.

As Wilfrid Laurier University's visual arts centre since 1989, the Robert Langen Art 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. from Wednesdays to Saturdays. Admission is free.