

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



**Artist's inspiration comes from idea that earth is a *Small Pond***  
*Exhibition includes fur coats turned into art of animals wearing human clothing*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – The Robert Langen Art Gallery will feature an exhibition of mixed media works, entitled *Small Pond*, from January 4 to 28. Local artist Arlene Turkington will be on hand for an opening reception from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11.

Turkington's artwork involves using resin to preserve insects that have died of natural causes and are found in her home, on a sidewalk or by her friends. The vision for her artwork is similar to how the people of Pompeii were preserved by filling the empty spaces in the layers of ash with plaster.

"The concept underlying my *Small Pond* series is that the earth is a small pond and what happens to one on this earth happens to all," says Turkington. "When current events are particularly disturbing, I hold onto the idea that I can control my particular small pond, which extends to the small creatures sharing my space."

*Small Pond* also features a series of fur works entitled *Trap Lines*. Turkington reverses the process of skinning an animal for fur products by dismantling used fur coats and drawing portraits of the animals, wearing human clothing, on them. By giving these animals back their warm, protective skins, Turkington claims to be helping rebuild the housings for their souls.

Turkington has won awards from the Waterloo Regional Arts Foundation and the Ontario Arts Council. Her work has been exhibited at Cambridge Galleries, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery and Woodstock Art Gallery.

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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.

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