

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Exhibition explores tensions between faith, tradition and change

For Immediate Release

September 13, 2007

55-07

**Contact: Suzanne Luke
Curator/Art Gallery Coordinator
Wilfrid Laurier University
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3801**

WATERLOO – The Robert Langen Art Gallery will feature the works of artist Paul Roorda in an exhibition titled *A Dose of Uncertainty for Times of Truth*. The exhibit, which runs from September 19 to October 13, 2007, uses found objects to question spiritual practices and their changing roles in society.

By combining and distilling childhood experiences of church, new examination of Biblical text, religious art, and observations of the influence of religion on contemporary society, Roorda explores a personal and societal ambivalence towards the Christian tradition.

“This body of work is, in a sense, a deconstruction and transformation of the Bible,” says Roorda. “Linking all the works is a sense of unease about the traditions of the Christian church and a process that explores the role of ritual in contemporary society.”

In a work titled *The Weight of Paper*, a large antique Bible has been wrinkled and smoothed to create a similar *Open Bible*, yellowed with age. “The aim is always to find the point of tension between the weight of tradition and allure of change, between the desire for preservation and the hope for transformation, and between the demand of faith and the appeal of the secular,” Roorda explains.

- more -

Roorda has exhibited in solo and group shows throughout Ontario and in Quebec. Recently, his art has been profiled in MIX Magazine and has been the subject of an episode of “The Artist’s Life” which aired on Bravo TV. Roorda is the City of Kitchener’s 2007 artist-in-residence.

Paul Roorda would like to acknowledge the support of the Ontario Arts Council and the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund for the creation and exhibition of this body of work.

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.