

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Artist uses video installation to explore gender conflict and inequalities

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WATERLOO — The Robert Langen Art Gallery will feature a video installation by artist Libby Hague in an exhibition titled *Cut/close to home*. The exhibit, which runs from November 12 to December 6, 2008, explores a “when-love-goes-wrong” scenario that explores control, sexuality, violence and self-respect within a relationship.

Cut/close to home is a video loop of a man and woman fighting in a boxing ring. The work incorporates a rotoscoping technique, in which animation is drawn on top of live action. The video is projected on several layers of semi-transparent plastic cut in narrow strips and hung like curtains. Viewers can separate the image with their hands and walk through the video.

By inviting viewers to interact with the work, Hague hopes participants will recognize their ability to bring about change. “With this installation, viewers become the agents who break the cycle of violence; the projection will begin to disappear and the fighting will be behind them,” says Hague. “In this way, the installation relates to the recurring theme of disaster and rescue in my work.”

Hague is a Toronto-based artist with an extensive exhibition history. Recent exhibitions include: *Rehearsal for Everything*, Visual Arts Centre of Clarington, Bowmanville; *Hot + Cold running water*, Lennox Contemporary Gallery, Toronto; and *vent du nord*, ARprim, Montreal. Her current works are a form of print installation, a theatrical approach to printmaking that integrates print, video and sculpture and, when possible, viewers.

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.

For more information on Hague’s works, visit <http://www.libbyhague.com/basic.html>.

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