

## NEWS RELEASE



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## CONTACT

Suzanne Luke, Curator  
Robert Langen Art Gallery  
519-884-0710 ext. 3801 or sluke@wlu.ca

Lori Chalmers Morrison, Associate Director  
Communications & Public Affairs  
519-884-0710 ext. 3067 or lchalmersmorrison@wlu.ca

### **Artist Peter Sibbald explores the land-human relationship through his photos**

WATERLOO – The Robert Langen Art Gallery presents the works of documentary photojournalist Peter Sibbald in an exhibition titled *Elegy for a Stolen Land*, running January 5 to February 12, 2011.

*Elegy for a Stolen Land* is a photography exhibition that investigates the changes that humans have wrought on the land in southern Ontario. From a traditional native perspective of land-human integration to a more traditional western notion of landscape, this black-and-white photography series presents land as a nexus of human cultural will and nature, where politics, spirituality, environmental science, commerce, social justice and philosophy collide.

Describing the region as a place that is “neither city nor country but some creature in between,” Sibbald challenges viewers to explore how contemporary land-human relationships have evolved and to consider their own involvement in the ongoing process.

Sibbald was raised on the land of his pioneer ancestors near Sibbald’s Point on Lake Simcoe before moving to Toronto. When he returned to the Lake Simcoe area to raise his own family, Sibbald said he noticed “the extent of the rapaciousness of urban and suburban land use practices on Ontario lands.”

For more than 25 years, Sibbald has photographed for many of the world’s most prestigious publications, such as *Time*, *Maclean’s*, *Fortune*, *The Globe and Mail* and *Canadian Geographic*. His exhibition history includes: Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough; The Photo Passage at Harbourfront Centre, Toronto; Varley Art Gallery, Markham; Red Deer District Museum, Alberta and Toronto Photographers Workshop, Toronto.

The Robert Langen Art Gallery has played a vital role at Wilfrid Laurier University since it opened in 1989. As Laurier’s visual arts centre, the Robert Langen Art Gallery provides knowledge, stewardship, appreciation and enjoyment of Canadian art and culture to members of the Laurier community and beyond. The gallery’s annual programming complements concepts and theories in Laurier’s academic curriculum and integrates community outreach initiatives as related to the visual arts.

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