

## NEWS RELEASE



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### Centennial art exhibit and lecture to take community “Beyond Genocide”

WATERLOO – Human rights will be in the spotlight from Sept. 19 to 23 when Wilfrid Laurier University and the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary host an exhibit, lecture and workshops by U.S.-based artist Amy Fagin featuring the impact of genocide and mass human rights violations on various cultures.

The exclusive exhibit is part of Laurier’s centennial celebrations, and will feature 13 of Fagin’s illuminated manuscripts from her emerging “Beyond Genocide” series. Illuminated manuscripts are manuscripts that have been supplemented with additional artwork such as colourful imagery and symbols. The artist will also lead the lecture “Beyond Genocide: Illuminating Mass Atrocity” Sept. 21 in the seminary’s Keffer Chapel.

“I think it’s important to have a visual and literary representation of genocide and massive human rights violations,” said Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, the Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights and a professor in Laurier’s Department of Global Studies and the Balsillie School of International Affairs. “It shows respect for the culture of the people who have suffered, and for all the cultural losses to the world.”

Howard-Hassmann is co-sponsoring this event with the Office of Research Services and the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

“Churches have learned from over 60 years of documenting and defending human rights that it takes politicians, activists, academics, and business leaders but equally musicians, poets, and artists to maintain our collective vigilance,” said David Pfrimmer, principal dean of the seminary. “We are fortunate to have Amy’s work here as a painful visual reminder that such vigilance is demanded now more than ever.”

Rather than illustrating the acts of violence, each piece in the series is crafted as a visual narrative “illuminating” the impact of genocide and mass annihilation on a specific culture or country. Countries featured in the exhibit include Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, the DR Congo, Ethiopia, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Indonesia, Iraq and Namibia. The Holocaust as well as the Crusades and Inquisition are also featured in the illuminations.

Fagin’s artwork will be on display in the seminary from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Sept. 19 to 23. Her lecture takes place on Sept. 21 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Keffer Chapel. In addition, the global song Inshallah choir will be rehearsing songs from the countries represented in Fagin’s work Sept. 20 at 5 p.m. in the chapel. All events are free and open to the public.

Fagin is also willing to conduct free tours of her exhibit or present her work to groups or classes. Please contact Wendy Webb at [wwebb@wlu.ca](mailto:wwebb@wlu.ca) for more details.

For more information about the artist, please visit [www.20thcenturyilluminations.com](http://www.20thcenturyilluminations.com).