

NEWS RELEASE



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Leave your mark on artist Pearl Van Geest's exhibit *INTO PLACE* at Laurier

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University's Robert Langen Art Gallery presents an interactive video projection of artist Pearl Van Geest in an exhibition titled *INTO PLACE*, running from Jan. 4 to Feb. 11, 2012.

INTO PLACE explores the human relationship to the physical and natural world. Van Geest invites viewers to participate in the creation of a large work that reflects ideas around love and desire and the potential consummation of this longing. Topographical maps are projected onto a white canvas, and participants are asked to leave kiss marks on areas that are meaningful to them.

"Lines of questioning converge in my art practice: queries regarding the nature of reality and its projection into and onto us, how we create our realities – our stories, our connection to the physical world and the place of painting within this context," said Van Geest. "Might the perceived boundary or skin between the human and physical world be dissolved or made transparent by the energy of desire, by Eros, by love?"

Van Geest graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design in 1996. She also has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Guelph and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto. Born and raised in Canada, Van Geest spent the better part of the 1980's working and traveling in Africa and India.

Three of Van Geest's paintings are part of the Canada Council's Art Bank Collection and she recently received a grant from the Ontario Arts Council. She was shortlisted for the RBC Canadian Painting Competition in 2003 and was included in the Magenta Foundation's publication on Canadian painters: *Carte Blanche: Vol. 2*. In March, 2011 she was an Artist in Residency for the Winter Self-Directed Creative Residency at the Banff Centre.

Her recent solo exhibitions include: *But this is not a place of words* at KWT Contemporary in Toronto; *Outside of the Mouth of God* and *Other World* at Transit Gallery, Hamilton; and *Incident Horizon* at Harbinger Gallery, Waterloo.

Van Geest's studio is in the Trafalgar Building in downtown Guelph and she is represented by KWT Contemporary in Toronto and Harbinger Gallery in Waterloo.

The Robert Langen Art Gallery has played a vital role at Wilfrid Laurier University's Waterloo campus 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.