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## Artist invites public to share their *Maleta Stories* at Laurier

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University’s Robert Langen Art Gallery presents an interactive installation by artist Marissa Largo in an exhibition titled *Maleta Stories*, running from Oct. 31 to Dec. 8, 2012.

*Maleta Stories* explores the growing hybridity of communities and the diasporic identity that is formed through global migration. Through stop motion animation and a participatory installation, Largo invites the public to share their *maleta stories* – their distant or direct stories of how they came to be in Canada.

A stop-motion animation of a woman kneeling before a closed *maleta* (a Tagalog word for suitcase) is projected onto the gallery wall. Participants are invited to share their stories using baggage tags tied to a web-like installation constructing a collective family tree of migration.

Largo is a Toronto-based artist and educator. She is a graduate of York University’s Fine Arts and Education programs and has a Master’s degree in Art Education from Concordia University. Her works have been presented in several group and solo exhibitions in Toronto and Montreal, such as *From the Pearl of the Orient to Uptown* (2007), *Memory and Place* (2009), *Public Realm* (2010) and *Scotiabank Nuit Blanche* (2011, 2012). Her art practice and academic research focuses on community art education, cultural studies and equity studies. She is also actively involved with the Magkaisa Centre, home to progressive community groups dedicated to the integration and settlement of Filipinos in Canada. Largo is currently a PhD candidate in the Adult Education and Community Development Program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

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.

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