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New art exhibit at Laurier explores human rights issues

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University’s Robert Langen Art Gallery presents a mixed-media exhibition by artist Jamelie Hassan, titled *Could we ever know each other...?*, which runs from Sept. 18 to Oct. 26, 2013. Hassan will also be speaking at the annual conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA), taking place at Laurier’s Waterloo campus Oct. 17-19, 2013.

Issues surrounding human rights, political conflict and cultural displacement have been a driving force throughout Hassan’s art practice. *Could we ever know each other...?* explores these issues and challenges viewers to re-evaluate their perceptions of cultural histories and the importance of civic responsibility. Selected works in the exhibition intricately intertwine ongoing and immediate global concerns with the artist’s commitments to create a deeper meaning of these issues within contemporary society.

Hassan will be speaking at a PJSA conference workshop on Friday, Oct. 18 in the Paul Martin Centre. Those interested in hearing Hassan speak are encouraged to register for the conference at www.peacejusticestudies.org/conference. Details about the workshop will be posted on the website.

In addition to being a visual artist, Hassan is a lecturer, writer and independent curator. She has coordinated numerous international programs and is involved in artist-run centres in Canada. She was a founding member of the Forest City Gallery, London, ON (1973) and Embassy Cultural House, London, ON (1983-1990). Her works are in major public collections and she is the recipient of numerous awards including the Governor General’s Award in Visual and media Arts (2001) and the Chalmers Art Fellowship (2006), and she recently completed a four-month artist-in-residence at La Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France (2012). A survey exhibition of her work, *Jamelie Hassan: At the Far Edge of Words*, was the recipient of the 2009 OAG Best Exhibition of the Year Award.

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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