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Art exhibit at Laurier explores the architecture of water

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University's Robert Langen Art Gallery presents a sculptural exhibition by artist Patrick Mahon, titled *Water & Tower Allegory*, which runs from Oct. 30 to Dec. 7, 2013.

Through *Water & Tower Allegory*, Mahon explores architectural forms, decorative and analytical patterns and built structures to reference the human connection to shifting environmental conditions. Invoking water as both a natural and socially inscribed material, and towers and "mining tipples" as paradigms of human enterprise and intervention, Mahon creates inventive works where solids and liquids intersect to produce provocative forms.

"Printed sculptures extend my longstanding commitment to intersecting art and design, decoration and expression, and the singular with the multiple," said Mahon in a statement. "These materially intense objects, made of printed wood, are meant to suggest a dialogue of forms that transit between printmaking and sculpture, as well as between representation and abstraction."

In addition to his upcoming exhibition, Mahon was commissioned to create a piece for Laurier's new Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science. For the piece, titled *Water Movements/Multiple States*, Mahon utilized layers of semi-transparent coloured resin on plexiglass, as well as frosting techniques that modulate the clarity of the surfaces, to develop an arrangement of fluid forms that emphasize mobility and change. *Water Movements/Multiple States* emphasizes physical change as a constant, inferring the importance of attempts to know and control a fluid that is central to human and planetary life, while also acknowledging it as both vulnerable and uncontrollable.

Mahon is an artist, curator and teacher. He has been a faculty member in Visual Arts at Western University since 1995. His work as a visual artist includes print-based projects that engage with historical and contemporary aspects of printmaking, and involves responding to gallery and museum collections as well as establishing community-based art initiatives. Mahon's artwork has been exhibited widely, including at galleries across Canada, in China and in France. Mahon lives with his family in London, Ontario, and is represented by Katzman Kamen Gallery, 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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