



Heidi Northwood, Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts
and Interim Senior Executive Officer, Brantford Campus
519-756-8228 ext. 5881 or jvilaca@wlu.ca

Beth Gurney, Associate Director
Communications & Public Affairs, Laurier Brantford
519-756-8228 ext. 5753 or hgurney@wlu.ca

SEPT. 19, 2018 | 121-18

Library mural inspires Laurier panel discussion on reconciliation through the arts

BRANTFORD – Can public art be a catalyst for healing and community discourse in the selfie generation? How does public art stimulate the process of reconciliation? How do we translate symbols and ideology across cultures?

These questions and more will be explored when Wilfrid Laurier University's [Faculty of Liberal Arts](#) hosts a panel presentation and discussion **Sept. 21** at the university's Brantford campus to consider truth and reconciliation through culture and the arts. The topic is inspired by the [Brantford Public Library's](#) new mural [La Landscape de Kanata](#) and the journey of creating works of public art that provide a visual story of the evolution of the community.

"The event answers a need for more opportunities for the campus community to engage with the broader community," said **Heidi Northwood**, interim senior executive officer at Laurier's Brantford campus and dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts. "There is a tremendous amount of work to do in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, so the particulars of the topic are rich and necessary for discussion."

La Landscape de Kanata is a metal quilt, created by a group of artists led by **Dave Hind** and dedicated to the Brantford-born Group of Seven painter **Lawren Harris**. In the piece, Harris is surrounded by a symbolic group of seven, with each figure chosen based on Brantford history as well as cultural and landscape connections. Each figure was created by a different artist, brought together in the spirit of creating community art.

Artists involved in the project include Hind, the **Aluminum Quilting Society** comprised of **Jason Dong, Thomas Anderson, Bonnie Whitlow, Ralph Heather, Shana Elijah, Daniel Hill, Arlene Laskey, Steph Jacobs, Andrea Flockhart, Judy Devine** and other community participants.

The panelists include [Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant](#) gallery director **Ana Olson**, artist Dave Hind, Laurier Indigenous student support coordinator **Bonnie Whitlow** and the City of Brantford manager of tourism and marketing **Sara Munroe**. The panel is moderated by [Art Gallery of Hamilton](#) CEO **Shelley Falconer**.

Hind has been working with recycled aluminum for nearly 20 years, connecting with the idea of reusing discarded materials.

"I love that it had a past life, so there's a layer of symbolism or meaning in the work, that it has a cycle of life," he said.

The artwork was selected through a call for artists by the Glenhyrst Art Gallery to honour Lawren Harris. Hind wanted the community art piece to incorporate the area's relationship with Indigenous peoples and Harris's relationship with the landscape.

... more

La Landscape de Kanata panel discussion/Page 2

"Harris's story is an amazing story, but it's not the only story," said Hind.

The lecture is hosted through the Faculty of Liberal Arts Dean's Community and Alumni Advisory Council as a way to connect the university with the wider community.

"Events like this are a wonderful opportunity for the community to get an understanding of what public art is about," said **Daniel Banko**, member of the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Dean's Community and Alumni Advisory Council and organizer of the panel. "By hearing directly from the artists and the people involved in the commissioning process, we get a broader understanding of the need for public art, in this case its role in bringing communities together."

The free event is open to the public and will be held at **Market Square Mall** basement, 1 Market Street Brantford. Doors open at **6:30 p.m.** and the panel discussion takes place from **7 to 8:30 p.m.** Please RSVP to FLAdmin@wlu.ca.

-30-