

Opportunity Knocks: An Evening of Conversation with Arts Innovators

Presenter Bios

Rui Pimenta, Artspin

Rui Pimenta is founder and co-curator of Art Spin. Since 2009 Art Spin has been activating decommissioned venues and unique public spaces to produce large-scale group exhibitions along with curated bicycle-led art tours to showcase a wide range of newly commissioned art programming in unique site-specific settings. Led by Rui and Layne Hinton, artists and independent curators, Art Spin is driven by a strong sense of commitment and passion for presenting contemporary artworks in alternative, everyday spaces in order to make its audience's experiences with art more engaging and exciting.

Gordon Hatt, CAFKA

CAFKA – Contemporary Art Forum Kitchener and Area is a non-profit, artist-run organization that presents a free biennial exhibition of contemporary art in the public spaces of the City of Kitchener and across the Region of Waterloo. Between exhibitions CAFKA promotes art education through its public programs and events. The CAFKA biennial is created to take the experience of contemporary art out of the gallery, to present it as a critical and integral part of community life. The exhibition is curated to engage public discourse around issues of public and private space, bringing groundbreaking artists from around the world to contribute to the discussion. Gordon Hatt has led CAFKA as Executive Director since 2008. Gordon has been active in the development and the promotion of Canadian artists for over 30 years, working with Cambridge Galleries, Rodman Hall Arts Centre, and Nuit Blanche.

Lisa Hirmer

Lisa Hirmer is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice spans visual media, social practice, performance and occasionally writing. She is primarily concerned with collective relationships - those which exist between things - in publics and other assemblies of people, such as institutions, as well as in our relationships with the more-than-human world. Her work finds home both in galleries and an expanded field of non-traditional spaces. Hirmer has shown her work across Canada and internationally. From 2009 till 2017 she created her public work under the pseudonym DodoLab. DodoLab worked at the intersections of visual art, social practice, performance and art-based forms of research. She is currently based in Guelph, and was the City of Guelph's 2016 Artist-in-Residence.

Steph Yates

Steph Yates is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Guelph, Canada working primarily in installation, kinetic sculpture, video, and stop-motion animation. With an inclination towards the uncanny, Yates's work often brings together the familiar and the unfamiliar, the formal and the absurd. She is keen on process, mystery, humour, and the hand-made. Yates's work has been exhibited locally and internationally. Also a musician, Yates is quietly working on a solo record, fronts the Guelph band Esther Grey, and makes up one half of the "sparkle punk" duo Cupcake Ductape. With her Cupcake Ductape counterpart, she co-founded and the Guelph chapter of Girls Rock Camp.