

## **New curator welcomed at Kelowna Art Gallery**

**July 24, 2018 – Kelowna, BC:** The Kelowna Art Gallery is pleased to announce the appointment of Laura Jane Ritchie as Curator. Ritchie will be responsible for Gallery exhibitions, accompanying publications, and all permanent collection activities.

“I am delighted to have Laura join the Kelowna Art Gallery team,” says Executive Director Nataley Nagy. “She brings a tremendous amount of energy and experience to the position. We look forward to working with her to bring a diverse range of historical and contemporary exhibitions to Kelowna audiences in the coming years.”

Before joining the Kelowna Art Gallery, Ritchie was the Head of Exhibitions and Collections Management at the Art Gallery of Alberta, where her curatorial projects focused on showcasing Canadian historical works from the permanent collection. There she curated *PoP Show: Dazzled by the Everyday*; *The Edge: The Abstract and Avant-Garde in Canada*; *The Looking Glass*; *Undaunted: Canadian Women Painters of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*; and *William Townsend: Painting Alberta, Details of Canada*. Previously, she curated the travelling exhibition *Four Turns of a Key: Metalworks by Elma Jonston McKay*.

Originally from New Brunswick, Laura Jane Ritchie holds an MA in Art History from Western University. She has worked in collections and exhibitions management and visual arts administration with art organizations including Beaverbrook Art Gallery, the New Brunswick Crafts Council, the New Brunswick Arts Board, Museum London, the Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery and the Commonwealth Association of Museums. She is a fellow of the Getty Leadership Institute’s NextGen, Executive Education for the Next Generation of Museum Leaders.

“I’m delighted to be here and look forward to working with and for the Kelowna community. The Kelowna Art Gallery is setting a great example of how museums and galleries consider and engage their surroundings, and I am privileged to be a part of that,” says incoming Curator Laura Jane Ritchie.

The Gallery invites members of the community to stop by and welcome her at a special meet-and-greet event to be held at the Kelowna Art Gallery on Thursday, August 16, beginning at 6 pm.

The Kelowna Art Gallery is located at 1315 Water Street in the heart of the Cultural District in downtown Kelowna. For hours of operation, or more information about current exhibitions or programs available, call 250-762-2226 or visit the Kelowna Art Gallery online at [www.kelownaartgallery.com](http://www.kelownaartgallery.com).

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### **Media Inquiries**

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### **Kelowna Art Gallery**

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