

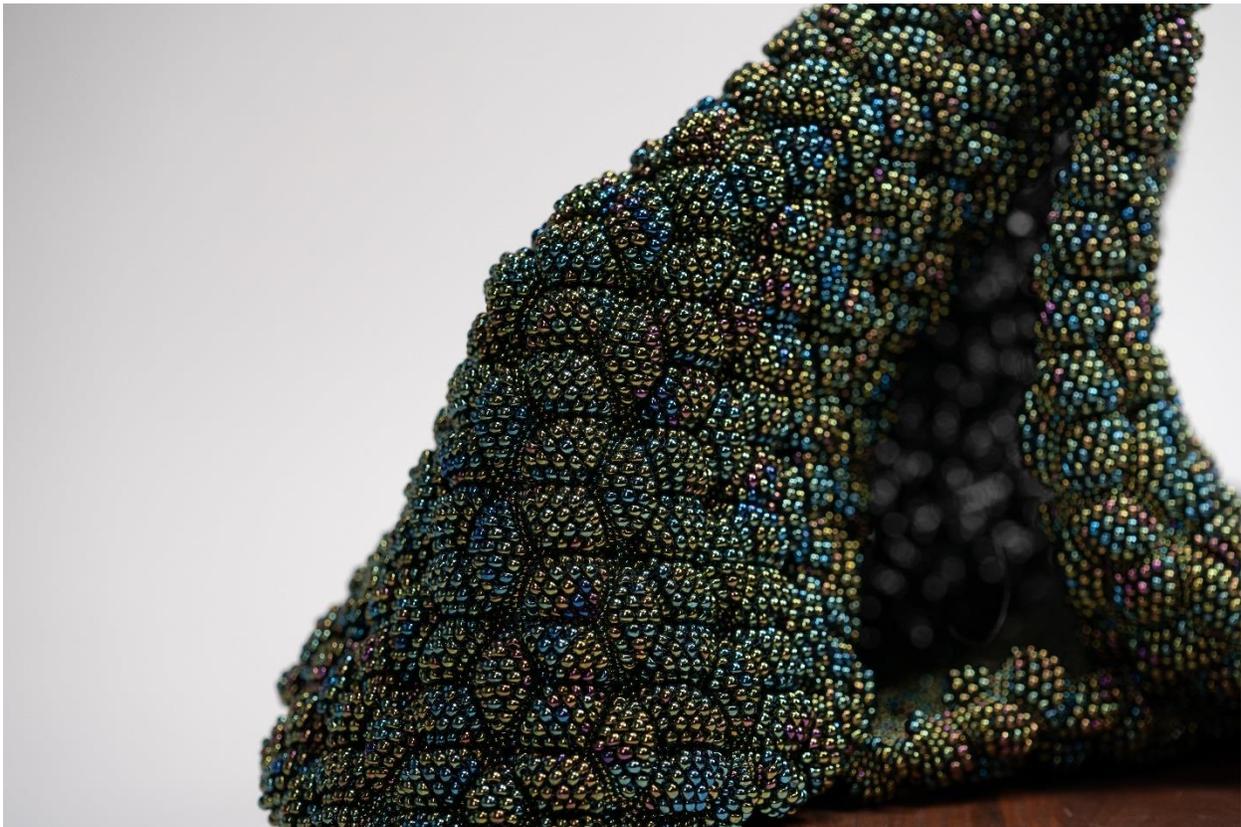
# Homer Watson *House & Gallery*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**New Exhibitions Launching at Homer Watson House & Gallery**

**April 29 through to August 4, 2022**

**Opening reception Thursday, May 12 at 7 pm. Artists will be in attendance.**



Sharl G. Smith, *Loss* (detail), Iridescent green glass beads, thread, sugar maple wood base, 2022. Image courtesy of the artist.

**March 31, 2022, Kitchener, ON:** Homer Watson House & Gallery is thrilled to welcome a new season of exhibitions by two local artists, Sharl G. Smith and Marjan Kaviani. The exhibitions *Of Wood and Water* and *In Solemn Silence* open on April 29.

Constructed using bead-stitching, a form of bead-weaving traditionally used for jewellery, the sculptures featured in *Of Wood and Water* explore the intersection of place and identity through the lens of varying states of wellbeing. The title, a literal translation of “Jamaica,” simultaneously evokes the influences of Japanese elemental philosophy and the Jamaican woodlands and waterways that served as inspiration for the works. Each piece plays with the boundaries of

hard/soft, rigid/flexible, and material/spiritual to create forms that reference both geographical features and corporeal experiences.

Originally from Jamaica, Sharl G. Smith is a Waterloo based artist who works primarily in hand-stitched bead sculpture. Smith is self-taught, using her background in architecture to inform and shape her practice. Inspired by her experience working in Zen Buddhist architectural design, Smith has a deep appreciation for the concept of “process as practice.”



The artist would like to acknowledge the generous support of Canada Council for the Arts, Region of Waterloo Arts Fund, and Ontario Arts Council.

*In Solemn Silence* is an exhibition that explores the relationship between the figure and the atmosphere. Kaviani’s current practice involves referencing photographs of her family through a second lens, one that is catered with feelings of discomfort and longing. She seeks to replicate the feeling of certain moments in life where numerous discrepancies in time, logic, and space coalesce creating bizarre existential-like moments, in which she is constantly subject to, especially when she is brought face to face with her culture and relatives.

Marjan Kaviani uses paint as a media to express ideas and capture experiences. *In Solemn Silence* is inspired by Kaviani’s nightmares, which blur the line between the conscious and subconscious. Using recordings of her sleep talking as inspiration, her current works showcase her Persian lifestyle through feelings of discomfort and longing, eliciting a questioning of reality.



Marjan Kaviani, *Listen Here*, Oil on canvas, 2021. Image courtesy of the artist.

Marjan Kaviani is an Iranian Canadian artist based in Toronto and Guelph, who works primarily in acrylic, oil, ink, and charcoal. After graduating from the Claude Watson Arts Program at Earl Haig Secondary School, she now attends the University of Guelph and is completing a bachelor’s degree in Studio Art and Psychology.

Please join us for the opening reception on **Thursday, May 12 at 7 pm**. Artists Sharl G. Smith and Marjan Kaviani will join curator Tabatha Watson in a short Q&A about the works in their respective exhibitions. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.



Marjan Kaviani, *The Build Up*, Oil on masonite, 2021. Image courtesy of the artist.

### **About Homer Watson House & Gallery:**

Homer Watson House & Gallery is the homestead of Homer Watson, Canada's first internationally recognized landscape artist (1855-1936). In 1980, the house and surrounding three-acre property were designated under the Ontario Heritage Act as being of architectural and historic significance. HWHG is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the legacy of Homer Watson's creative spirit by stimulating the appreciation, enjoyment, and practice of the visual arts.

Homer Watson House & Gallery is wheelchair accessible.

### **GALLERY HOURS:**

Tuesday to Sunday: 10 am – 4 pm

**For more information please contact:**

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