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Ground-breaking virtual reality exhibition *URL:IRL* opens at Dunlop Art Gallery.

URL:IRL is unlike any Dunlop Art Gallery exhibition. The first professional art exhibition in Regina to feature virtual reality, it brings together the work of more than a dozen Canadian and international artists in over ten different media, and spills over gallery walls to include offsite performances, social media components, and digital experiences.

The exhibition, curated by Blair Fornwald, Jennifer Matotek, and Wendy Peart, in-house curators at Dunlop Art Gallery, runs from June 1 to September 16, 2018 at Central Gallery; from June 16 to September 5, 2018 at Sherwood Gallery.

URL:IRL centers on the border between real and virtual life. By presenting the work of artists who delve into an impressive array of topics, from selfies to capitalism, the exhibition throws one fact in stark relief: digital media has seeped into every aspect of our life, and reality happens on screen. Physical space and digital space are the same space – there is no boundary.

As spectators bounce from screen to sculptures, from virtual reality headsets to wall installations, the illusion of virtual life as innocuous and fictional is torn bit by bit. The artists highlight the imperfection of the digital world, which is presented as capitalistic, gendered, dangerous, and fraught with tension. In short, as real.

“*URL:IRL* is unlike any show we’ve ever organized before,” says Jennifer Matotek, Director/Curator of Dunlop Art Gallery. “The exhibition provides an interesting opportunity to think about technology and digital space. If you haven’t used virtual reality before, or want to see what artists are doing with the medium, this show is a great introduction.”

The exhibition includes *Nail Art Museum*, a performance lecture by Jeremy Bailey on Friday, June 1, 6:00 pm, at the RPL Film Theatre, and a reception on Friday, June 1, 7:00 pm, at Central Gallery.

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Media contact:

Margherita Vittorelli
Marketing and Communications Consultant
Regina Public Library
mvittorelli@reginalibrary.ca
306.777.6114 (office)