

# KATHARINE HARVEY PREPARES FOR THE 2008 GALLERY HOP



Katharine Harvey in her studio

A special installation by Katharine Harvey will be featured at this year's Gallery Hop Gala. *Waterfall* (2008) is a site-specific, mixed-media installation designed especially for the event. We asked Katharine to describe her work for us.

**How would you describe the piece?** It's a waterfall curtain made from recycled plastic bottles and containers, strung from large-scale rods similar to curtain rods. The piece will be eight feet high and 60 feet long,

and lit to create the effect of light dancing on waves. It will be shown in a dark environment, in a huge space, so the effect will be stunning. I'm taking recycled objects destined for the garbage and transforming them into something magical.

**What is your process?** I cut water bottles open and flatten them so that they crinkle and look like a wave or like ripples of water. It's a visual pun: a water bottle being used to depict the thing it contains.

**How does this installation differ from your previous works?**

This is the largest scale I've ever worked on—we have strung together more than 5,000 objects so far. I like the abstract shapes of plastic packaging, and guessing at what the containers used to hold—there are cake boxes and packaging for computer accessories, toys, hardware and berries.

**How did these installations develop?** I started this type of work on a very small scale, decorating a storefront window with second-hand objects. I kept being asked to do larger projects, so I asked myself: where could I get a lot of material cheap or free? And I realized I could use recycled objects. The work has become about the labour of putting these objects together, collecting them and shaping them into something entirely new.



Katharine Harvey's studio in preparation for *Waterfall* (2008), courtesy Nicholas Metivier Gallery