

Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery • 25 Caroline Street North • Waterloo ON N2L 2Y5 • 519.746.1882

The Clay & Glass Announces Winners of the 2014 RBC and Winifred Shantz Awards

WATERLOO (ONTARIO) CANADA. November 22, 2014: The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery announced the winners of the 2014 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics and RBC Award for Glass at an Awards ceremony held at the Gallery on November 22. The ceremony featured brief artist talks by each of the shortlisted candidates.

The winner of the 2014 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics is Christopher Reid Flock. In his work, Mr. Flock has been reinterpreting the root of functional objects, focusing on aesthetic contrasts and parallels between Japanese and Canadian cultural history. By exploring scale, colour and the integration of mixed media, his works have evolved into free-form shapes and sculptural constructions that evoke recognizable and classic references of traditional Japanese Ikebana arrangements and kimono-wrapping while combining aspects of western industrialisation. This award will allow Flock to undertake an eight-week residency at the Medalta International Artists in Residence Program at the Historic Clay District in Medicine Hat, Alberta where he plans to increase the scale of his works and explore rapid prototyping technologies.

Jody Greenman-Barber of Buena Vista, Saskatchewan received the second prize. The Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics was juried by Iris Amizlev, Marie Côté and Jonathan Smith.

The winner of the 2014 RBC Award for Glass is Cheryl Wilson Smith of Red Lake, Ontario. Cheryl Wilson Smith's delicate and complex kiln-cast works are inspired by the boreal forest and the rocky shores of Red Lake where she lives. Created by translating drawings into countless individual layers of glass frit, her sculptures push the limits of glass while interpreting the northern Ontario light, landscape and wilderness. Wilson Smith has been invited participate in "First Light" an artist-in-residence inside the Arctic Circle of Norway, timed to coincide with the first day during which the sun reappears over the horizon line. The residency will also include visits of natural and artistic interest. Working with renowned American glass artists Steve Klein and Richard Parrish and Norwegian artist Daniela Salathe she will experiment with the addition of colour, representing a significant technical challenge.

Karina Guévin and Cédric Ginart of Ange-Gardien, Quebec received the second prize. The RBC Award for Glass was juried by Sandra Ainsley, John Paul Robinson and Valérie Paquin.

The winner of each award received \$10,000. Second place winners each received \$1,000. These prestigious national awards allow early career practising ceramic and glass artists to undertake a period of independent research, or other activities that will advance their artistic and professional practice at a key moment in their careers.

To be eligible for the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics or the RBC Award for Glass, artists must be Canadian citizens or have Permanent Resident status. They must have developed skills

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through training and/or practice in the field (not necessarily in academic institutions) and be recognized by other artists working in the same artistic tradition. All applicants have maintained an independent professional practice for a maximum of ten years prior to their application.

The Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics is supported by the Keith and Winifred Shantz Fund for the Arts, held at the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation. The RBC Award for Glass is supported by the RBC Foundation as part of the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

About Winifred Shantz: The late Winifred Shantz was a driving force for the arts in Waterloo Region for more than 40 years. A successful ceramist, entrepreneur and visionary philanthropist, she was committed to finding ways to enable artists to reach their full potential.

About RBC: RBC recognizes the role the arts play in vibrant communities and strong economies, and that enabling the next generation of artists to succeed is essential to continued vitality. From visual arts and music, to performing arts, writing and filmmaking, investing in emerging artists is a long-standing priority at RBC.

With an emphasis on supporting the work of Canadian ceramic and glass artists, the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery presents exhibitions that challenge ideas and perceptions of the definitions of art, craft and design today. The Gallery's public programs offer multiple pathways for engagement with contemporary artworks and art-making practices. The Gallery Shop is recognized on its own merits as a fine craft gallery, showing the best of Canadian ceramic and glass work. Housing a collection of historical and contemporary Canadian ceramic, glass and enamel art, the Gallery is proud to conserve and promote an active component of Canada's rich cultural heritage.

The Gallery is located at 25 Caroline Street North in Waterloo, Ontario. It is open Monday to Friday, from 11 am to 6 pm, Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sundays 1 to 5 pm. **Admission is always free.**

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