

Ceramic and glass award winners announced

Waterloo Region Record

WATERLOO — Winners of a couple of national arts awards span the breadth of the country.

The winner of the 12th annual Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics is Eliza Au of Richmond, B.C.

Meanwhile, the winner of the fifth annual RBC Award for Glass is Benjamin Kikkert of Toronto.

The double announcement was made Wednesday by the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery at an awards gala at the Centre for International Governance Innovation campus auditorium.

Gallery curator Christian Bernard Singer commends Au's "great intentionalism and commitment, along with a sense of curiosity, a willingness to challenge assumptions and explore new territory."

Au received a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and a master of fine arts degree from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University.

Au's work centres on the process of slip casting. She is interested in how sacred space is transformed by the use of pattern and geometry in Gothic and Islamic architecture.

She has completed residencies with Greenwich House Pottery, in New York City, The Museum of Contemporary Craft in Portland, Ore., and the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY.

Au receives \$10,000 to advance her studies in the Netherlands.

The runner-up is Carole Epp of Saskatoon.

Epp is a ceramic artist and writer who received a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Regina and a master's degree in ceramics from the Canberra School of Art at the Australian National University. She was a recent visiting artist at Red Deer College in Alberta.

She receives \$1,000.

Singer describes Kikkert as "a consummate professional with a passion for working with glass and pushing traditional boundaries of the medium."

Born and raised in Vancouver, he is a graduate of the craft and design program at Sheridan College.

He creates glass objects featuring characteristics that transcend the medium.

Kikkert has worked throughout the mountains, plains and coastlines of North America, drawing on the forces that shape these landscapes to inspire his work.

A resident of the Harbourfront Centre, he receives \$10,000 to further his studies in Germany.

The runner-up is Dominique Beaupré St-Pierre of Montreal.

Beaupré St-Pierre graduated in fine arts from the College of Rimouski and from the arts and crafts program at Espace Verre.

She receives \$1,000.

The jury for the Shantz award consisted of Jane Buyers, Susan Collett and Susan Shantz.

The jury for the RBC award was made up of Brad Copping, Julie Oakes and Christian Poulin.

Both national awards were established to support the careers of emerging artists by allowing them to undertake independent study and research.

The gala's guest speaker was Jack Sures, whose exhibition *Tactile Desires*, is on view through Oct. 14 at the Waterloo



Livelihood, blown glass, copper, wood, steel, 20120 is by Benjamin Kikkert, who has won the RBC Award for Glass.



Axis, 2011, ceramic is by Eliza Au, who has won the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics.

gallery.

rreid@therecord.com