

MEDIA RELEASE



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Toronto Artist Nurielle Stern Wins \$10,000 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics

WATERLOO (ONTARIO) CANADA. June 27, 2019: The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is pleased to announce that Nurielle Stern of Toronto, Ontario has won the 2019 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics. The finalists of the award are Trevor Baird (Montreal, QC), Naomi Clement (London, ON), Grace Han (Winnipeg, MB), Joon Hee Kim (Oakville, ON), Jocelyn Reid (Calgary, AB) and Zane Wilcox (Regina, SK).

The winner and finalists will be celebrated in a group exhibition which will run from September 21 to November 17, 2019. The opening reception will be held at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery on Sunday, September 29 at 2:00pm. Award winner Nurielle Stern will provide a brief artist talk during the reception.

The Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics is supported by The Keith and Winifred Shantz Fund for the Arts, held at Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation. This prestigious \$10,000 award allows practising early career ceramic artists to undertake a period of independent research, or other activities that advance their artistic and professional practice.

Nurielle Stern is a ceramic sculpture and installation artist and a graduate of Alfred University's renowned MFA program in Ceramic Art (2014). She has also studied ceramics at Sheridan College and holds a BFA in Sculpture and Installation from OCAD University. Stern's most recent exhibition, *Unswept Floor (Tesserae)*, was commissioned by the Gardiner Museum in response to *Ai Weiwei: Unbroken*. Stern's upcoming exhibitions include a collaborative exhibition at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery in Waterloo, Ontario (with Nicholas Crombach, July-September), and large-scale commission for Gardiner Museum's new Joan Courtois Gallery to be installed this coming Fall.

The 2019 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics was juried by Pascale Girardin, Michele Hardy and Rory MacDonald. The jury would like to acknowledge a very competitive field of emerging ceramic artists who applied. The jury is unanimous in selecting Nurielle Stern as the recipient of this year's award. In her work, Stern demonstrates a combination of daring, rich investigation of narrative and subject matter and a mastery of her craft. The jury was impressed with the quality of her strong exhibition production combining work of installation and display as well as the strength of her proposed award project. As part of her project, Stern will produce large-scale ceramic sculptures for exhibition, beginning with her participation in a residency at the California State

University Long Beach Center for Contemporary Ceramics.

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 Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation: Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation (KWCF) enables people, companies and organizations to do more good by making it easy for Fundholders to give and for charities to receive money. When you make a donation to KWCF, they invest that gift into a permanent endowment fund which generates income that is then distributed through grants to support a wide range of charitable causes within our community. As a leading community-building organization in Waterloo Region, KWCF is focused on collaborating with partners to identify and meet current and future needs of our community, by enabling social capital and developing creative forward-thinking innovative solutions for place-based philanthropy.

Learn more about the Award at www.theclayandglass.ca/awards

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With an emphasis on supporting the work of Canadian ceramic and glass artists, the Canadian Clay & 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.

www.theclayandglass.ca • Hours: M to F 11 am to 6 pm; Sat 10 am to 5 pm; Sun 1 pm to 5 pm

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