

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Matthew O'Reilly Wins \$10,000 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics!

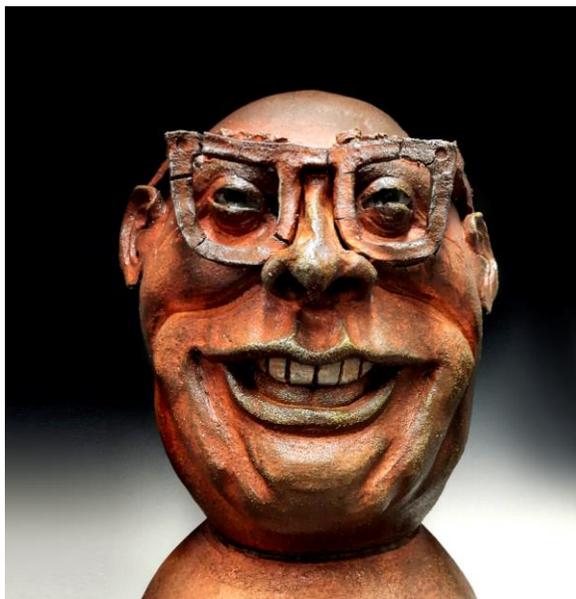
WATERLOO (ONTARIO) CANADA, August 11, 2022: The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is thrilled to announce that **Matthew O'Reilly of Medicine Hat, Alberta** is the **winner of the 2022 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics!** O'Reilly will receive the prestigious **\$10,000 prize**, which will support the development of his career through an artist residency and future exhibition projects in Canada and the United States. The **only national award for emerging ceramic artists in Canada**, the Shantz Award has supported more than twenty artists since it was first presented in 2001.

We also celebrate the achievement of this year's **finalists: Katie Lemieux** (Thunder Bay, ON), **Alana MacDougall** (Winnipeg, MB), **Heidi McKenzie** (Toronto, ON), **Rebecca Ramsey** (Montreal, QC), and **Daumante Stirbyte** (London, ON). Each finalist will also receive a prize of **\$1,000** to support the development of their artistic practices.

This fall, the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery will feature Matthew O'Reilly and the finalists in our awards exhibition, **Emergence**, along with the RBC Award for Glass winner and finalists. The exhibition will provide a rare opportunity for these emerging makers to share their work with an extensive audience while helping to build their careers at a pivotal moment.

The 2022 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics was **juried by Robin DuPont, Kevin Andrew Morris, and Susan Surette**. On the selection of this year's winner and finalists, the jury states:

"The range of exciting and excellent ceramic work executed by all the finalists for the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics reveals the wide range of professional practices that are undertaken today. Matthew O'Reilly demonstrates a strong commitment to the values embodied in the Shantz Award. He engages with his medium from strong material,



Matthew O'Reilly, "Piles of Barbarism (Detail)", 2021, Ceramic. 5'x3'x6'10". Collection of the Artist.

technical, and conceptual bases, which he has consistently explored and developed through a graduate degree and residencies, and he has maintained a sound exhibition presence. This award supports his clearly defined residency project that will enhance his professional practice. The jury has no doubt that Matthew O'Reilly will continue to contribute to the Canadian contemporary ceramic art scene through his research into analogue and digital clay and we look forward to seeing how his artistic and professional practice develops through this opportunity."

The Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics is generously supported by the Keith & Winifred Shantz Fund for the Arts, held at Waterloo Region Community Foundation.

**For more information about the Winifred Shantz for Ceramics, [visit our website.](#)**

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To schedule a media interview or for more information, contact Denis Longchamps, Executive Director & Chief Curator, at 519-746-1882 ext. 231 or [director@theclayandglass.ca](mailto:director@theclayandglass.ca).

#### **ABOUT THE CANADIAN CLAY & GLASS GALLERY**

The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is a long-standing site of excellence and a destination for contemporary art for international tourists and regional citizens. We present critically acclaimed exhibitions that challenge ideas and perceptions of the definitions of art, craft, and design today. The Gallery is a relevant and dynamic cultural organization providing supportive education programs to people from across the region. Using exhibitions as a starting point, individuals develop arts vocabulary and appreciation and cultivate confidence in their interpretation of contemporary artworks. For more information, visit: <https://www.theclayandglass.ca/>