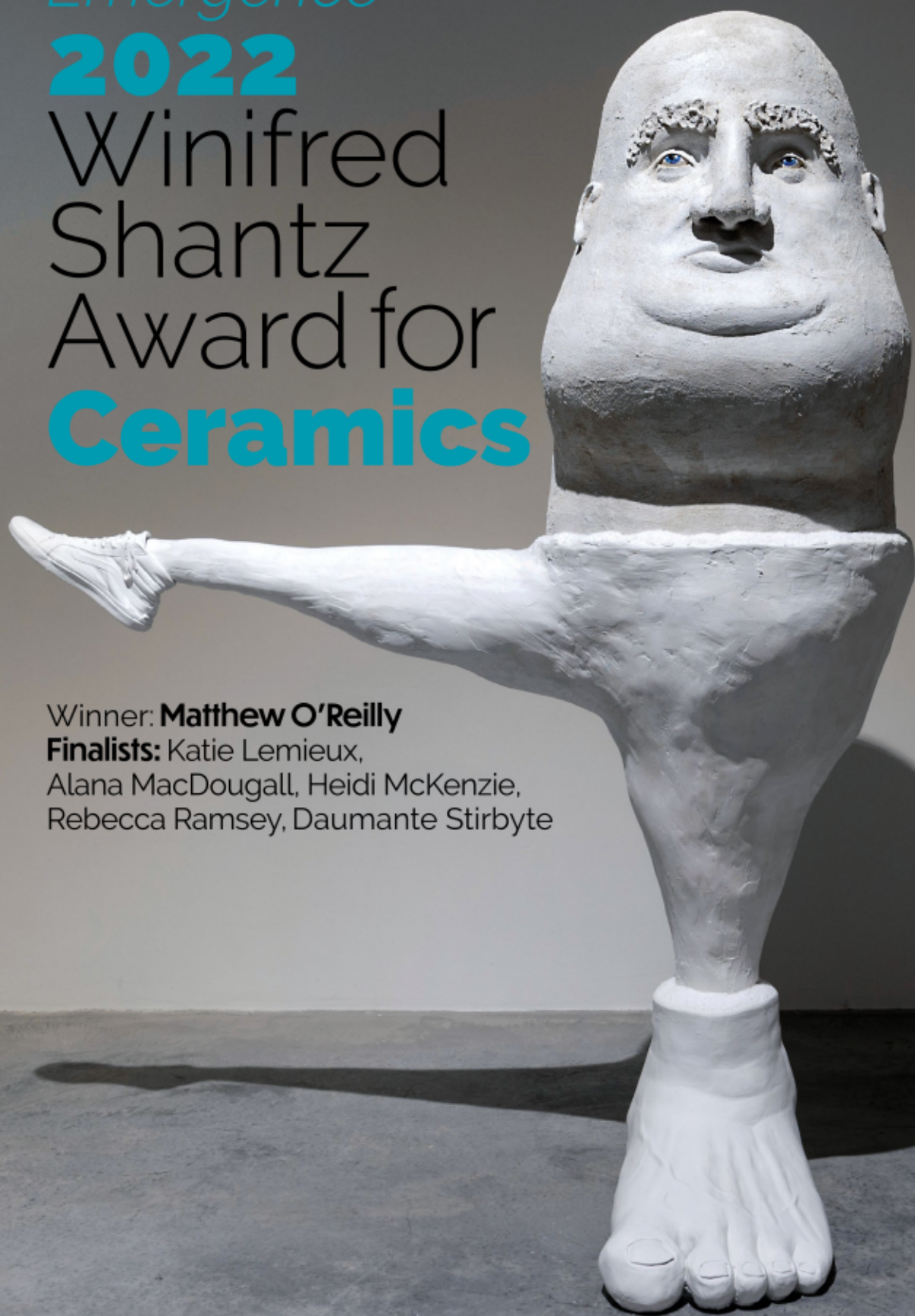


Emergence

2022

Winifred Shantz Award for **Ceramics**



Winner: **Matthew O'Reilly**

Finalists: Katie Lemieux,
Alana MacDougall, Heidi McKenzie,
Rebecca Ramsey, Daumante Stirbyte

Emergence

The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery proudly presents *Emergence*, the only national awards exhibition for clay and glass dedicated to emerging artists. The CCGG has been presenting the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics since 2001. Previous winners received the opportunity to pursue research facilitating the next level of their careers, with many participating in international residencies.

This year, the twenty-second winner of the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics is Matthew O'Reilly. This prestigious \$10,000 national award will allow Matthew to undertake a period of independent research in residency to advance his artistic and professional practice. Five finalists were also selected, and they will each receive \$1,000. *Emergence* features the artworks of the winner and finalists.

Each annual award, alongside our exhibitions and programs, demonstrates our commitment to supporting emerging artists at this pivotal point in their careers. Nurturing young talent is critical to encouraging healthy and inventive ceramic and glass arts in Canada; the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is continually working to ensure this support is available.

This year's selection was made by a jury comprised of respected contemporary ceramic artists Robin DuPont (British Columbia), Kevin Andrew Morris (Aberdeen, Scotland) and Susan Surette, PhD (Québec). We thank them for their time and commitment to the jurying process.

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. We are grateful that she, with her husband Keith, established a fund allowing us to present the award annually. The Keith and Winifred Shantz Fund for the Arts is held at Waterloo Region Community Foundation.

Congratulations to the winner and finalists!

Denis Longchamps, PhD
Executive Director & Chief Curator



Matthew O'Reilly, *Connected #4*, Ceramic, acrylic, 2022.
Photo Courtesy of the Artist. Collection of the Artist.

2022 Winner

Matthew O'Reilly is an emerging artist who recently completed his MFA in ceramics at the Alberta University for the Arts in Calgary, AB, Canada. He also holds a Honors Bachelor of Fine Arts, a Bachelor of Education, and a Masters in Education with a specialization in social justice from Lakehead University. He is a passionate educator, as well as a formidable maker.

Matthew was a year-long 2021-2022 artist in residence at the Medalta Clay Center in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where he developed new bodies of work concerning the tension between individuals and collectives. Matthew intends to further explore these ideas and their relationship to digital media during a residency at the Clay Studio of Missoula.



Katie Lemieux, *Expose*, Porcelain, underglaze, glaze, 2022.
Photo Courtesy of the Artist. Collection of the Artist.

Finalist

Katie Lemieux was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She holds an Honours in Fine Arts, Ceramics from Lakehead University in 2016 and a Masters in Fine Arts from the Peck School of the Arts in Milwaukee, WI USA (2019). Katie's work has allowed her to travel to China, where she completed a 6-week residency at the renowned Jingdezhen facility in the province of Sanbao. She was later accepted into an exhibition in Croatia, EU, where she met the head of the Graduate program at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Since her Masters, Katie has moved back home to Thunder Bay, continuing her research in non-verbal communication as both an artist and PSW.



Alana MacDougall, *Form XVI*, Porcelain, 2021.
Photo Courtesy of the Artist. Collection of the Artist.

Finalist

Working primarily in ceramic sculpture and drawing, **Alana MacDougall** explores ideas around the body, communication, and the abstract nature of medical imagery. Her work focuses on the vulnerability of the body and the psychological impact of the familiar appearing foreign. MacDougall holds a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) from the University of Manitoba and a Master of Fine Art from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. She has exhibited in Canada, the United States, and Australia and has taught at the University of Manitoba since 2018.



Heidi McKenzie, *King's Canyon*, Stoneware, slips, 2017.
Photo Courtesy of the Artist. Private Collection.

Finalist

Heidi McKenzie is a Toronto-based ceramic artist. Heidi is informed by her mixed-race Indo-Trinidadian/Irish-American heritage. Her work seeks to reinvigorate modernism through abstraction and engages issues of race, identity, ancestry, archive and migration as well as body and healing. The recipient of numerous awards, Heidi has exhibited internationally. Heidi has worked as an artist-in-residence in China, Indonesia, Hungary, Denmark, Australia and Canada. Heidi participated in the World Indian Diaspora Congress in Trinidad, 2020, and her upcoming solo exhibition at the Gardiner Museum, (spring 2023) continues to explore the little-known histories of Indo-Caribbean indentureship through a feminist lens.



Rebecca Ramsey, *Sink*, Stoneware, glaze, iron, 2022.
Photo Courtesy of the Artist. Collection of the Artist.

Finalist

Rebecca Ramsey uses ceramics and other materials to explore questions pertaining to energy and matter. She has a BFA from ECUAD (2017) and is currently an MFA candidate at Concordia University. She has completed residencies at Guldagergaard: Project Network (Skælskør, Denmark, 2017), Medalta (Medicine Hat, AB, 2018) and the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts (Burnaby, BC, 2018). Exhibitions include Ung Keramisk Kunst: Projekt Netværk (Guldagergaard, Skælskør, Denmark,) L-abri-désir (Projet Casa, Montreal, 2021), Points de Bascule (Centre Clark, Montreal, 2022). She is grateful for receiving support from Concordia's fellowship program, the BC Arts Council, and Artch Montreal.



Daumante Stirbyte, *Tough Cookie*, Porcelain, underglaze, glaze, faux leather, rubber bands, nichrome wire, 2021.
Photo Courtesy of the Artist. Collection of the Artist.

Finalist

Daumante Stirbyte was born and raised in Lithuania. She moved to Ireland in 2007, where she graduated from the National College of Art and Design in 2016 with a BDes (Hons). Dauma was an international artist in residence at the London Clay Art Centre (Canada) from 2017 to 2020, where she also taught sculpture classes. In 2018 Dauma was named Best in Show at Fusion's Emerging Artist exhibition. Represented by The Benz Gallery (London, ON), and the Wall Space Gallery (Ottawa, ON). Dauma currently works from her home studio in London, ON.



About the Jurors:

Robin DuPont is a ceramic artist and educator specializing in atmospheric firing techniques. His work is an inquiry into the ceramic process and the relational aspects of useful objects. With a Masters Degree from Utah State University, Robin has also participated in several artist-in-residence programs, research and work studies abroad and has professional experience in kiln building and teaching at the post secondary level.

Initially undertaking Three Dimensional Design at Grays School of Art **Kevin Andrew Morris** went on to graduate with BA (Hons) in Ceramic Design in 2010 from The Glasgow School of Art. The physical and cultural landscape and environment he finds himself in is hugely important to his current work and development. Based in Aberdeen he is often referred to as a 'Nomadic Ceramicist' exhibiting his work nationally and internationally as well as working with a range of artists, institutions and on various public projects.

Susan Surette is a ceramic artist and historian who teaches ceramic and craft histories at Concordia University in Montreal. She writes books, articles and book chapters on Canadian ceramics and craft issues and participates in national and international conferences. Her work is found in public, corporate and private collections.

About the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics

The Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics is presented annually by the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery and is supported by The Keith and Winifred Shantz Fund for the Arts, held at Waterloo Region 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. The winner and up to five finalists are also included in a group exhibition at the Gallery.

Past recipients of the award truly represent the best of the emerging ceramic artists in Canada. To learn more about past winners of the award, visit www.theclayandglass.ca/shantz-award

About Winifred Shantz:

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About Waterloo Region Community Foundation:

Waterloo Region Community Foundation (WRCF) collaborates with partners to create sustainable, equitable and thriving communities. We connect regionally and locally, working with three cities and four townships – to include the people and places across our region. Together, we develop forward-thinking innovative solutions and seize opportunities to meet current and future needs of our community. We make philanthropy easy for individuals and companies to support organizations and issues they care about. WRCF is focused on Granting, Impact Investing and Convening to make measurable and sustainable impacts. Gifts are directed to WRCF's endowed funds that drive positive change through grants with the income generated being distributed in partnership with Fundholders to support a wide range of charitable causes within our community. A portion of the endowed funds are also used for impact investments that deliver both financial returns as well as positive social or environmental outcomes. As a leading community-building organization we also work to amplify voices and issues of importance by convening conversations and sharing information, while approaching our work with an equity mindset. www.wrcf.ca



Matthew O'Reilly, *Connected #3*, Ceramic, acrylic, 2022.
Photo Courtesy of the Artist. Collection of the Artist.

Cover: Matthew O'Reilly, *Smoldering Grecian*,
Ceramic, plaster, metal, paint, 2020. Photo Courtesy of
the Artist. Collection of the Artist.

Outside Spread: Matthew O'Reilly, *Smoldering Grecian*,
Ceramic, plaster, metal, paint, 2020. (Detail)
Photo Courtesy of the Artist. Collection of the Artist.

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