FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2014 CHARLES PACTER PRIZES FOR EMERGING CANADIAN ARTISTS

Ottawa, September 23, 2014 – The Hnatyshyn Foundation today announced the 2014 recipients of The Charles Pachtter Prize for Emerging Canadian Artists. 2014 marks the third and final year of the $5,000 prizes initiated by senior visual artist and historian Charles Pachtter and intended to “nurture emerging talent” in the visual arts in Canada. Starting next year for a period of three years, the prizes will be renamed the William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes for Emerging Canadian Artists.

In recognition of Charles Pachtter’s contribution, Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, said: “We would like to express our gratitude to Charles Pachtter for initiating this very important prize program and for fostering the development of young Canadian artists. We would also like to thank William and Meredith Saunderson for their generous support, which will make it possible to continue the annual prizes through 2017.”

The winners of this year’s awards were chosen by Marie-Josée Jean, 2013 recipient of the Hnatyshyn Award for Curatorial Excellence. Ms. Jean is a teacher, curator and the executive and artistic director of VOX, centre de l’image contemporaine in Montréal.

Sara Cwynar lives and works in Brooklyn, N.Y., and has a B.A. in Design from York University in Toronto. Working sometimes in a studio setting, using collage, assemblage and rephotography, she creates photographic tableaus and sculptural constructions using found objects and images. Her work contains implicit references to a commercial aesthetic, to the history of photographic techniques, and to art history. These are reminders to us that the stories behind familiar images constitute, to a certain extent, the visual framework of a collective consciousness. Yet this narrative is often disrupted by successive, almost baroque, manipulations, revealing some of the aesthetic strategies that guided their initial development. Sara Cwynar’s work has been featured in both solo and group exhibitions at venues that include the Cooper Cole Gallery in Toronto, the Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Foam Photography Museum in Amsterdam. She is represented by the Cooper Cole Gallery in Toronto, and Foxy Production in New York City. http://saracwynar.com

Mathieu Grenier lives and works in Montréal, and has a B.A. in Visual and Media Arts from the Université du Québec à Montréal. Through a practice that involves installation — generally produced in situ — and photography, he explores the relationships between the artist and creative work, and between the viewer, the work and an exhibition context. Sometimes referential in nature, sometimes humorous,
his work draws upon memory to piece together a certain story for the works and their interactions. His works, developed with great attention to detail, suggest a “shift from the devices behind the work to the work itself as device.” Mathieu Grenier’s work has appeared in group exhibitions in Montréal at Les Territoires gallery, Trois Points gallery, Espace Cercle Carré, and the Galerie de l’UQAM, as well as at the Musée régional de Rimouski. In 2015, his work will be featured in solo exhibitions at Arprim in Montréal and at Lobe in Chicoutimi. http://www.mathieugrenier.ca

Erdem Taşdelen grew up in Switzerland, Germany and Turkey before settling in Vancouver, where he earned an M.A. in Visual Arts from the Emily Carr University of Art and Design. His multidisciplinary practice involves a variety of mediums, such as installation, drawing, sculpture, video, sound and the artist’s book. He uses text and language in various forms — graphophonology, psychotherapy, repetition, resolution, etc. — to conduct subtle enquiries into subjectivity and its representation. His various projects, characterized by a mordant humour, also involve him in a reflective process that brings self-expression into question within the context of culturally learned behaviours. Erdem Taşdelen’s work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions at Galeri NON, ARTER and the Sanatorium Gallery in Istanbul; at MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna; at the Kunstverein Hannover in Hanover, Germany; at the Republic Gallery, Western Front, 221A, and the Charles H. Scott Gallery in Vancouver; and at Oakville Galleries in Toronto. He is represented by Galeri NON in Istanbul. http://www.erdemtasdelen.com/

The Hnatyshyn Foundation offers its sincere congratulations to this year’s recipients.

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About The Hnatyshyn Foundation

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada’s twenty-fourth Governor General, to assist emerging and established artists in all disciplines with their schooling and training, and promote to the Canadian public the importance of the arts in our society. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations and individuals. The Department of Canadian Heritage has provided $5 million in grants to assist the Foundation.

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