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The Hnatyshyn Foundation announces \$75,000 in awards for Canada's visual artists and curators

Ottawa, September 4, 2018 – Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, announced today the recipients of the 2018 awards in the visual arts. The \$25,000 prize for outstanding achievement by a Canadian mid-career artist is awarded to **Maria Hupfield** of Wasauksing First Nation, Ontario via Brooklyn, New York, while the winner of the \$15,000 award for curatorial excellence in contemporary art is **Daina Warren** of Akamihk Montana First Nation in Maskwacis and Winnipeg, Manitoba. The TD Bank Group Awards of \$10,000 each for emerging artist and emerging curator go to artist **Anique Jordan** of Scarborough, Ontario and curator **Eunice Béliidor** of Tiohtia:ke and Montreal. The William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes of \$5,000 each for young artists go to **Esmaa Mohamoud** of Toronto, **Audie Murray** of Saskatchewan and British Columbia, and **Hjalmer Wenstob** from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and living in Ucluelet, British Columbia.

“We are very proud of these talented artists and grateful to our donors William and Meredith Saunderson, and to TD Bank Group for making the awards for emerging artists and curators possible. It is with their generous support that we are able to continue our mission of enriching the legacy of art in Canada for the benefit of all Canadians,” said Mrs. Hnatyshyn.

The laureates will be honoured at a reception held on September 12th at the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in Ottawa.

"Congratulations to this year's recipients of the TD Bank Group Awards for emerging artist and curator," says Andrea Barrack, Vice President of Global Corporate Citizenship at TD Bank Group. "As part of our corporate citizenship platform, The Ready Commitment, we are excited to continue working with the Hnatyshyn Foundation to help amplify all voices in the arts. Awards programs like this provide opportunities for emerging artists and curators to develop their diverse talents and voices in pursuit of a more inclusive tomorrow."

The laureates were chosen by a panel of art experts, including Brandy Dahrouge, Director of Visual Arts, Banff Centre; Dominique Fontaine Curator / Researcher / Cultural Advisor / Founding Director, aPOSteRIORI, Montréal; Stuart Keeler, Senior Art Curator for TD Arts, Global Corporate Citizenship; and Tania Willard, Curator, 2016 recipient of The Hnatyshyn Foundation's Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Art. The Hnatyshyn Foundation would like to thank the jurors for their generous assistance.

"It was a pleasure to join this year's art panel to help the Hnatyshyn Foundation select the 2018 award recipients," says Stuart Keeler, Senior Art Curator at TD Arts, Global Corporate Citizenship. "The work and intention of the group selected will help increase access to Canadian contemporary art through new ideas and mediums that everyone can engage with and feel connected to."

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 training and professional development, 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. Since it began programming in 2006, the Foundation has provided over \$3.2 million in support of Canadian visual artists, performing artists and curators.

The TD Bank Group Award for Emerging Curator of Contemporary Canadian Art was established in 2013. The program was expanded in 2016 to include the TD Bank Group Award for Emerging Visual Artist. The awards are given annually to support exceptional curators and visual artists under the age of 35 whose body of work incorporates a public presence and peer recognition.

Train travel for the artists provided by Via Rail.

For more information about the programs of The Hnatyshyn Foundation:

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For information about The Ready Commitment, visit
www.td.com/thereadycommitment.

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About the laureates

Maria Hupfield



Maria Hupfield is an interdisciplinary artist and member of the Anishinaabek Nation from Wasauksing First Nation, Ontario. Her hand-sewn industrial felt creations are multidimensional; further activated in live performance and video they function as radical forms of collaboration, craft and Indigenous futurity. Her first major traveling solo exhibition *The One Who Keeps on Giving*, was mounted by The Power Plant Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto; in partnership with Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge; Galerie de l'UQAM, Montréal; Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery, Halifax; and Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris. A recipient of the Grafly Commission, The Ulrich Museum will mount a solo exhibition in spring 2019. Her work has travelled with *Beat Nation: Art, Hip Hop* and

Aboriginal Culture, and shown in New York at The Kitchen, Brooklyn Information & Culture (BRIC), The Bronx Museum, The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, The Museum of Arts and Design, and SITE Santa Fe, with performances at Gibney Dance, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and The Brooklyn Museum. She is co-owner of Native Art Department International with Jason Lujan and is currently the Indigenous Artist in Resident, International Studio Curatorial Program ISCP in New York. Hupfield is the recently appointed Professor of Indigenous Media and Performance at The University of Toronto, 2019. Hupfield is represented by Galerie Hugues Charbonneau in Montreal.

Daina Warren



Daina Warren is a member of the Akamihk Montana First Nation in Maskwacis, Alberta. She received her Bachelor's degree in 2003, graduating from the Emily Carr University of Art and Design. Warren also graduated from a Masters in Art History program, completing the Critical and Curatorial Studies from the University of British Columbia (2012). In 2000, she was awarded Canada Council's Assistance to Aboriginal Curators for Residencies in the Visual Arts program to work with grant gallery in Vancouver. This opportunity led to a permanent position with the artist-run centre as an associate curator and administrator until 2009. Warren then went on to complete another Canada Council's Aboriginal Curatorial Residency this time with the major arts institution, the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario. During this residency she curated the group exhibition *Don't Stop Me Now*. Other exhibitions of note include the online exhibitions *If These Walls Could Talk* and *Contains Animal Byproducts!* created for the CODE Screen 2010 Vancouver Olympics project. Warren was awarded the 2015 Emily Award from Emily Carr University and was selected as one of six Indigenous women curators as part of the Canada Council for the Arts Delegation to participate in the International First Nations Curators Exchange that took place in Australia (2015), New Zealand (2016), and Canada (2017). She is currently the Director of Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Anique Jordan



A self-trained Scarborough born, Trinidadian, multi-disciplinary artist, Jordan specializes in 3 areas: costume, performance and photography. Jordan integrates these three diverse art practices to create a unique and distinctive artistic style called performance-photography. These three elements are influenced by a practice rooted in the dying art of Trinidadian carnival masquerade costume making and street performance.

“My work is deeply rooted in exposing what is invisible, erased or absent from historical narratives, particularly focusing on Black Canadian history. Of Black bodies, I ask where can we see what is historically, socially and politically deemed invisible in Canada? Yet hyper-visible in Canadian institutions? I have found what is central to these answers are the creation or recognition of bodies that are capable of possessing both spaces, a hybridity of sorts. Visualizing these bodies and sites is the at nucleus of my practice and fuels the vision of my work,” says Jordan.

Eunice Bélidor



Born in Tiohtia:ke /Montreal, Bélidor is a curator, critic and researcher, specializing in contemporary Haitian art, and interested in fashion design, performance, Black studies and feminism. Her curatorial practice aims to create intersectional links between her research interests, as well as the art object / subject and the institution. She is the founder of #CuratorialTips, a research and help tool for emerging curators and their practice. She questions everything, believing that asking the right questions are the best

ways to come up with creative and thoughtful answers. Her writing has been published in *Hyperallergic*, the *Journal of Curatorial Studies*, *Invitation* (Art Mûr gallery), *InCirculation*, and *Espace Art Actuel*. She regularly takes part in various juries and committees: she currently sits on the Visual Arts Evaluation Committee at the Conseil des Arts de Montréal. She currently works as programming coordinator at *articule*, an artist-run centre in Montreal.

Esmaa Mohamoud



Esmaa Mohamoud is an African-Canadian sculptor/installation artist working in Toronto. Her sculptures and installations focus on the navigation of Black bodies in contemporary spaces. Engaged in the politics surrounding Black male bodies in particular, her recent body of work investigated the (in)tangibility of Blackness through the exploration of athletics—specifically, the sport of basketball. With the use of industrial materials, Mohamoud aims to re-examine our contemporary understanding of Blackness and challenge the relationship of blackness as a colour and shade, and Blackness as a societal or cultural construction of a group of people. Mohamoud graduated from Western University's Bachelors of Art program in 2014. In 2016, Mohamoud graduated from the Interdisciplinary Arts, Media, and Design Masters Program at the Ontario College of Art and Design University.

Audie Murray



Audie Murray is a multi-disciplinary Métis artist originally from Saskatchewan currently learning and creating on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples. She has completed a visual arts diploma at Camosun College in 2016 and her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Regina in 2017. She has studied traditional tattoo practices with the Earth Line Tattoo Collective in the summer of 2017. Working with themes of contemporary Indigenous culture, and ideas of connectivity and duality, she believes that the concept and energy of her artworks informs their materiality and form. Audie has shown her works at various events and spaces in Canada including Open Space, the Mackenzie Art Gallery and the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery.

Hjalmer Wenstob



Wenstob was raised on an island in Barkley Sound, in Huu-ay-aht First Nation's territory, off the west coast of Vancouver Island. It was there that his understanding and desire of pursuing both his traditional Nuu-chah-nulth and contemporary art practices began. Hjalmer Wenstob is an interdisciplinary artist who specializes in sculpture and carving. He is Nuu-Chah-Nulth from the Tla-O-Qui-Aht First Nations on his father's side, and Norwegian and English on his mother's side. Hjalmer speaks of three dialects of his work; contemporary, traditional, and community-based. Through his contemporary dialect, Hjalmer completed both an undergraduate and master's degree at the University of Victoria, exploring the relationships between cultures and art, and the balance between traditional and contemporary. His work, at times is highly political, and uses humour and irony to pose difficult questions of respect, reconciliation and environmental issues. Recently, Hjalmer and his family opened Cedar House Gallery in Ucluelet, B.C. where Hjalmer is exploring ways of weaving his contemporary/political work with more traditional materials and styles.