

THE HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION

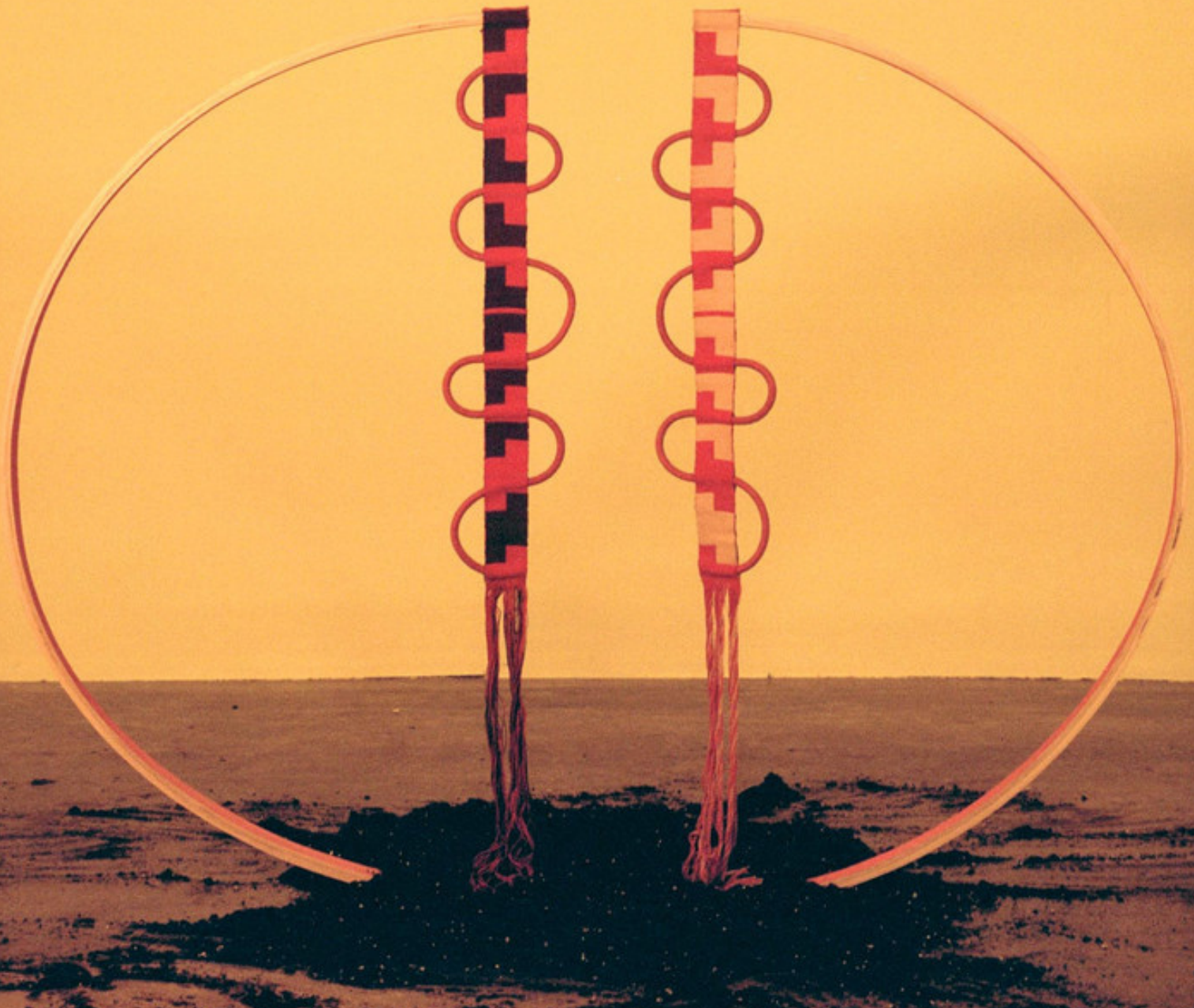
2023 Annual Report

Remembering Gerda Hnatyshyn





The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's 24th Governor General. It was established in 2002 and began awarding grants in 2005.



On this page: Shaya Ishaq, *Elegy for a Matriarch* (detail), 2022. Wood, milkpaint, soil, cotton. Photo: Brandon Brookbank.

Cover image: John-Finnigan Lin. Gerda Hnatyshyn with performers and colleagues at our *Ukraine – Heritage, Spirit and Future* gala. Top left to bottom right: Maksym Kadziela, Nicolas Pacholok, Calder White, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Zachary Senick, Maria Orlenko, Borys Ostapienko, Marianne Brown, Leslie Sereda, Olena Karas, Oksana Kyzyma, Lena Saltykova, Ashlyn Waller, Anna Shalaykevych, Gerda Hnatyshyn, Ilya Osachuk, Michael Sulyma, Yaroslav Tatarchenko, Mara Palahniuk.

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1935-2023
President, 2002-2023



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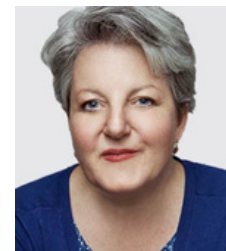
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Remembering Gerda Hnatyshyn

Chair's Message



2023 will be remembered as a year marked by grief, gratitude, and determination.

The July 2023 passing of our President, Gerda Hnatyshyn, was a blow to all of us at the Hnatyshyn Foundation. Established as the legacy of her late husband, Ray Hnatyshyn, Gerda has been the driving force behind the Foundation. As many will know, Ray's tenure as Canada's 24th Governor General included the launch of the *Governor General's Performing Arts Awards* and the *Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Volunteerism in the Performing Arts*. Both Ray and Gerda believed deeply in the transformative power of the arts and their role in developing our national identity. While we continue to grieve the loss of Gerda, that belief remains our inspiration.

On the following pages, the programs and initiatives that continue to thrive at the Hnatyshyn Foundation are showcased. Whether our awards recognize exceptional artistic promise or excellence achieved, each demonstrates our ongoing commitment to fostering a rich artistic landscape.

Perhaps the most significant achievement of 2023 was the conclusion of our 20th anniversary project. The theme, "*Ukraine – Heritage, Spirit and Future*," recognized the proud Ukrainian heritage of many Canadians (including the Hnatyshyn family) and the devastating impact of the ongoing war. The Foundation initially awarded \$10,000 prizes to 20 artists – 10 Ukrainians and 10 Canadians of Ukrainian descent. On June 25, 2023, in what would be her last public event, Gerda was elated by the success of the Foundation's gala evening celebrating these laureates. Funds raised will enable the Foundation to help restore a Ukrainian arts facility damaged by the war.

Gerda Hnatyshyn (right) with The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell (left) at the *Ukraine – Heritage, Spirit and Future* gala.
Photo: John-Finnigan Lin.

We are immensely grateful to the generous sponsors and donors, devoted volunteers, talented laureates, and some 450 guests who made this event such a resounding success.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we sincerely thank all supporters of the Hnatyshyn Foundation. Gerda led with unwavering determination, optimism, and gratitude. In this spirit, we are determined to honour and grow the legacy of Ray and Gerda Hnatyshyn. May our shared belief in the power of the arts propel us forward and inspire each of us.

Cynthia White Thornley



Words of Remembrance

“We know our mother believed the arts could bring people together, and inspire hope not only nationally but internationally. She was a guiding force in our lives, always checking in on us, and our children. She was an incredible cook, host, and cheerleader throughout our lives. We will miss her very dearly.”

Carl and John Hnatyshyn

“Gerda was a force of nature, a lion in support of the arts and one of the most wonderful people a person could know. She will be missed dearly by her family, friends, the Foundation and the entire arts community that she worked so hard to promote. Gerda was an example to us all.”

Todd Burke, partner at Gowling WLG and Corporate Secretary of The Hnatyshyn Foundation

“Ottawa is a great city for public support for organizations dedicated to serving the community. Gerda Hnatyshyn was unique. She went way beyond her role, cajoled donations from all she knew with elegant dinners, organized well-publicized events and brought together an astounding number of key supporters in various ways. No dinner party was complete without a discussion on why Canadian artists should be supported early in their career, and few guests left without pledging ongoing support! There are hundreds of cultural workers who would not have been able to continue their practice without the Foundation’s support. Happily her legacy will continue!”

Victoria Henry, close friend of Gerda Hnatyshyn and Vice-Chair of The Hnatyshyn Foundation

“Mrs. Hnatyshyn’s commitment to supporting emerging and established artists and curators leaves a profound and lasting impact on the arts in Canada. I am honoured and grateful to be included on the long list of artists whose work has been recognized and supported by the Foundation, and I am very sorry to learn of her passing. Her dedication and vision will continue to resonate through the work that the Foundation encourages and aids – it is a tremendous and inspiring legacy.”

Bridget Moser, two-time laureate of Hnatyshyn Foundation awards (2015 and 2023)

“Gerda was a guiding inspiration for me in the many ways she promoted the Arts and Humanities as essential to daily life and the means to counter the brutality of the 20th and 21st centuries. Her passing will be felt by so many across the country and beyond.”

Wayne Baerwaldt, visual arts curator and media producer and board member of The Hnatyshyn Foundation

“Canada has lost a gracious and determined Canadian. Over 20 years ago, I had the honour of being invited by the Right Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn to join his new Foundation. Since then, I have watched as Gerda, a feisty and indefatigable force, has raised funds to support her husband’s dream and enrich Canada’s talented young people in the visual and performing arts. Meredith and I are honoured to be her friends.”

William Saunderson, former politician, long-time friend of the Hnatyshyn family, and inaugural board member of The Hnatyshyn Foundation

The Hnatyshyn Foundation

403 Laureates since 2005

2022

Developing Artist Grants

Flavie Bourgeois, Sam Cooper,
Clara Isgro, Steven Noronha,
Tiffany Tsai, Thomas Viñals, Joshua
Wong

Fellowship for Young Conductor

Frédéric-Alexandre Michaud

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Michelle Jacques, Hajra Waheed

Saunderson Prizes

Darcie “Ouiyaghasiak” Bernhardt,
Guná, Jessica Winters

Fogo Island Arts Residency

Katie Lawson, Tak Pham

Scholarship for Indigenous

**Students in Drama at The
University of Saskatchewan**

Leze Pewapsconias

**Ukraine – Heritage, Spirit and
Future**

Illia Bondarenko, Stefan Bulyha,
Ballet of the Cherkasy Folk Choir,
Valeriia Honchar, Jaeden Izik-
Dzurko, Roksolana Kit, Victoriia
Melnyk, Moravski Chamber Choir,
Mariya Orlenko, Ilya Osachuk,
Borys Ostapienko, Taryn Plater,
Olena Saltykova, Zachary Senick,
Oleksiy Shadrin, Anna
Shalaykevych, Anna Shapoval,
Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Тóнка,
Calder White

2021

Developing Artist Grants

Jacob Chung, Jérôme Zerges,
Dorianne Lens-Pitt, Anton Ling,
David Liam Roberts, Elizabeth
Polese, Naomi Wong

Fellowship for Young Conductor

Gohar Manvelyan

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Isabelle Hayeur, Heather Igloliorte

Saunderson Prizes

Dan Cardinal McCartney,
Simranpreet Anand, Oreka James

2020

Developing Artist Grants

Michael Song, Mariya Orlenko,
Adanya Dunn, David Hodgson,
Maria Fernanda Riano, Ella
MacDonald, Camille Massicotte

Fellowship for Young Conductor

Kelly Lin

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Marianne Nicolson, Emelie

Chhangur

Saunderson Prizes

Jude Abu Zaineh, Marlon Kroll,
Sam Bourgault

2019

Developing Artist Grants

Yu Kai Sun, Zhan Hong, Sara
Schabas, Evan Gratham, Marie-
Maxime Ross, Ivy Charles, Laurence
Gagné-Frégeau

Fellowship for Young Conductor

Francis Choinière

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Dana Claxton, Catherine Bédard

Saunderson Prizes

Niamh Dooley, Evin Collis, Annie
Beach

**TD Emerging Curator and
Emerging Artist**

Walter Scott, Tarah Hogue

Fogo Island Arts Residency

Eli Kerr

2018

Developing Artist Grants

Maureen Adelson, Elie Boissinot,
Thomas Daudlin, Josh Lovell, Jia Yi
(Judy) Luo, Noémie F. Savoie,
Charissa Vandikas

Fellowship for Young Conductor

Adam Keeping

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Maria Hupfield, Daina Warren

Saunderson Prizes

Esmaa Mohamoud, Audie Murray,
Hjalmer Wenstob

2018 (cont'd)

**TD Emerging Curator and
Emerging Artist**

Eunice Bélidor, Anique Jordan
Fogo Island Arts Residency
Janique Vigier

**Emerging Atlantic Artist
Residency**

Meagan Musseau

2017

Saunderson Prizes

Tau Lewis, Jordan Loeppky-
Kolesnik, Nicole Kelly Westman

**TD Emerging Curator and
Emerging Artist**

John Hampton, Jennifer Aitken
Fogo Island Arts Residency
Corrie Jackson

**Emerging Atlantic Artist
Residency**

Lou Sheppard

**REVEAL Indigenous Art
Awards**

The Foundation created this
one-time program to honour 150
Indigenous Canadian artists
working across all artistic
disciplines. For a complete list of
REVEAL award-winners please
visit our website: rjhf.com.

2016

Developing Artist Grants

Rosalie Daoust, Étienne Gagnon-
Delorme, Simona Genga, Matt Lagan,
Sebastien Malette, Kerry Waller

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Peter Morin, Tania Willard

Saunderson Prizes

Amy Malbeuf, Jeneen Frei Njootli,
Olivia Whetung

Fogo Island Arts Residency

Steven Cottingham

**Emerging Atlantic Artist
Residency**

Anne Macmillan

2015

Developing Artist Grants

Hannah Barstow, Samantha Bitonti, Lillian Brooks, Christina Choi, Xiaoyu Liu, Lukas Malkowski, Zoé Tremblay

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Pascal Grandmaison, Candice Hopkins

Saunderson Prizes

Maya Beaudry, Jessie McNeil, Bridget Moser

TD Emerging Curator

Kim Nguyen

Fogo Island Arts Residency

Darryn Doull

2014

Developing Artist Grants

Antonin Cuerrier, Caroline Gélinas, David Bouchard, Gazal Azarbad, Justin de Luna, Andrew Swan Greer, Meagan Milatz, Ewen Farncombe

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Kent Monkman, Daina Augaitis

Charles Pachter Prizes

Erdem Taşdelen, Sara Cwynar, Mathieu Grenier

TD Emerging Curator

Cheyenne Turions

Fogo Island Arts Residency

Kari Cwynar

2013

Developing Artist Grants

Charles Sy, Christopher Kusuhara, James Hill, Marlène Ngalissamy, Martin ten Kortenaar, Melissa Watt, Rose-Anne Déry-Tremblay, Sarah Marchand

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Marcel Dzama, Marie-José Jean

Charles Pachter Prizes

Andréanne Godin, Kim Kielhofner, Marlène Renaud-B.

TD Emerging Curator

Jon Davies

2012

Developing Artist Grants

Betty Allison, Bryn Wiley, Colby McGovern, Edmund Stapleton, Jessy Je Young Kim, Sam Dickinson, Sasha- Emmanuelle Migilarese, Yoshiko Kamikusa

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Lani Maestro, Nicole Gingras

Charles Pachter Prizes

Jordan Bennett, Meryl McMaster, Philip Gray

2011

Developing Artist Grants

Alexandre Morin, Emily Duncan-Brown, Heemin Choi, Larissa Khotchenkova, Lisa Truong, Jan Lisiecki, Marie-Anick Blais, Matthew Chalmers

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Geoffrey Farmer, Philip Monk

2010

Developing Artist Grants

Barbara Kozicki, Daniel Reynolds, Danielle Gould, Emanuel Lebel, Guylaine Jacob, Jarret Siddall, Jocelyn Lai, Stéphane Tétreault

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Shary Boyle, Scott Watson

2009

Developing Artist Grants

Danièle Gagné-Belley, Jackson Carroll, Joshua Peters, Kim Henry, Leah Doz, Lucas Porter, Luke Sellick, Stéphanie Lavoie

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Rebecca Belmore, Anthony Kiendl

2008

Developing Artist Grants

Paige Culley, Samantha Chrol, Tristan Dobrowney, Kaitlyn Semple, Emily Belvedere, Isabelle David, Catherine Hughes, Valérie Bélanger

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, Barbara Fischer

2007

Developing Artist Grants

Alyssa Stevens, Devon Joiner, Allison Cecilia Arends, Eli Bennett, Victor Fournelle-Blain, Keith Dyrda, Lindsey Angell, Megan Nadain, Claudiane Ruelland

Mid-Career Visual Arts Awards

Ken Lum, Louise Déry

2006

Developing Artist Grants

Audray Demers, Carl Bray, Kostyantyn Keshyshev, Lambroula Maria Pappas, Lisa Hering, Luke Camilleri, Paul Medeiros, Rosy Yuxuan Ge

Mid-Career Visual Arts Award

Stan Douglas

2005

Developing Artist Grants

Greg Gale, Jeffrey Dyrda, Jonathan Challoner, Lisa Di Maria, Maude Sabourin

Developing Artist Grants

Seven grants of \$10,000 each awarded to the most promising Canadian performing artists in post-secondary education.



Julianna Bryson

Contemporary Dance

École de danse contemporaine de Montréal

Jurors: **Tony Chong** (choreographer, dancer, artist) & **Joshua Beamish** (choreographer & founder of MOVETHECOMPANY, Vancouver)

“The devotion which art and performance require is immense. Yet, it is something which I, amongst so many other artists, take part in because we must, because there is no other way for us to be a part of this world. It is a rare and incredible honour to be recognized for one’s devotion to their passion and I am immensely grateful for this opportunity.”

Naomi Caulfield Photography.

Eric Guo

Classical Music (Piano)

The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory

Jurors: **Dr. Michael Kim** (concert pianist and Dean of the Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University) & **Kathleen Solose** (classical pianist and professor, University of Saskatchewan)

With the help of this grant, Eric competed in international competitions in Poland, New York and Germany in the Fall of 2023. He went on to win first prize at the International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments, worth €25,000!



Photo: Chris McGuire.

“I believe my fate is music [...]. When I started to talk at three years old, I told my mom: I want to play piano.”

Isaiah Nembhard

Acting (English Theatre)

The Creative School, Toronto Metropolitan University

Jurors: **Lydie Dubuisson** (playwright, director and curator), **Ravi Jain** (Founder and co-Artistic Director, Why Not Theatre, Toronto) & **Jenna Rodgers** (Dramaturg, Playwrights Lab, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and Founding Artistic Director, Chromatic Theatre, Calgary)

Isaiah is an actor, singer, and writer. He draws upon his Jamaican heritage to give personal meaning to his art while being influenced by his family, dialect, and music. Isaiah strives to inspire future artists, viewing his art as a way of giving back to the teachers and mentors who have guided him over the years.



“I’ve been granted the opportunity to wholeheartedly focus on implementing my practice to the best of my abilities, as I strive towards a successful acting career.”

Daniel Marmer

Jazz Performance

The Schulich School of Music, McGill University

Jurors: **Petr Cancura** (saxophonist and Programming Director, Ottawa International Jazz Festival), **Min Rager** (jazz pianist and composer) & **Ted Warren** (jazz instructor)

“I was two-and-a half when my parents put on The Beatles album Magical Mystery Tour in the car. From here started my obsession with music and guitars.”

Daniel has benefited from the mentorship of musicians, including Bill Coon, David Blake, and Jodi Proznick.



Zoé Ntumba

Acting (French Theatre)

The National Theatre School of Canada, Montreal

Jurors: **Mathieu Chouinard** (co-Artistic Director, Satellite Theatre, Moncton), **Lorraine Pintal** (actor, director, author, producer, and Artistic Director of the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, Montreal), & **Gabriel Plante** (playwright, director and producer)

As an artist of Congolese origin, Zoé’s mission is to inspire the young people who see themselves in her. She aspires to create art that reflects the beauty and diversity of our society and inspire others to embrace their own artistry.



Zoé in *Ophélie dans l'eau*, directed by Robert Bellefeuille.
Photo: Maxime Côté.

“This grant represents much more than financial support for me. It is a true recognition of my efforts and commitment as an artist. It testifies to your confidence in my abilities.”



Isabella performing Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* at the Palais Montcalm in Quebec City. Photo: Tam Luong.

Isabella d’Éloïze Perron

Classical Music with an Orchestral Instrument

The Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory

Jurors: **Yolanda Bruno** (Toronto Symphony Orchestra), **Susan Hoepfner** (soloist, chamber musician and performing and recording artist), & **Kimball Sykes** (National Arts Centre Orchestra)

Radio Canada’s “Classical Revelation” for 2020-21, Isabella is committed to sharing her love of the arts and believes in its ability to connect people and inspire change. She has a particular interest in working with emerging composers as she believes they have the ability to speak to “the experience of living in the world today.” As part of her Classical Revelation award, she commissioned a work for piano and violin by Métis composer Gregory Borton. After sold-out performances across Canada in 2021 and 2022 with the FILMharmonic Orchestra, Isabella returns for a North American tour spanning Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, and more.

Charlotte Siegel

Classical Vocal Performance

The Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio Program, Toronto

Jurors: **Spencer Britten** (tenor, dancer and actor), **Deantha Edmunds** ('Inuk soprano,' soloist and recording artist) and **Dr. Jane Leibel** (professor of voice, Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Charlotte is a soprano and singer-songwriter from Toronto. She made her Canadian Opera Company debut as Second Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and as Manon in Ian Cusson's *Fantasma*. She holds a Graduate Diploma and Masters in Opera and Voice from McGill University, where she studied with Dominique Labelle and John Mac Master, and obtained her Bachelor of Classical Voice Performance from the University of Toronto studying with Frédérique Vézina.



Charlotte Siegel as Musetta in *La Bohème*.
Photo: Michael Cooper.

Charlotte was on CBC's 2021 list of "30 Hot Classical Musicians Under 30." She co-founded the Marigold Music Program, a not-for-profit organization that aims to close the gap between marginalized youth and music education.

The Hnatyshyn Foundation – Christa and Franz-Paul Decker Fellowship for Young Conductors

A \$15,000 fellowship for a graduate conductor at the Schulich School of Music

Jeremy Ho has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in violin from the University of British Columbia (UBC). He was a member of the UBC Symphony Orchestra for six years, including as principal player and concertmaster. In 2021 and 2022, he participated in the Vancouver Symphony Orchestral Institute as a conductor, under Jonathan Girard and Otto Tausk. In 2022, he was appointed as a substitute conductor for the Brock House Orchestra. He has also conducted for the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra. Last summer, he participated in the "And Other Duties" conducting program in Manchester, UK. At McGill, he has conducted the Beethoven Orchestra and the Graduate Conductor's Concert.



"This grant allows me to have more time to focus on my studies, as well as being able to thoroughly plan and rewatch my rehearsals. Many thanks to the Hnatyshyn Foundation for making this possible."

The Hnatyshyn Foundation – University of Saskatchewan Scholarship for Indigenous Students in Drama

This \$10,000 scholarship is awarded annually to an Indigenous student in the University of Saskatchewan's **wicêhtowin Theatre program** – a certificate program in performance and theatre design for emerging First Nations, Métis, and Inuit actors, playwrights and designers as well as students interested in an Indigenous perspective.

Darius Kiskotagan enjoys the collaborative nature of theatre and hopes to establish an independent company where emerging artists can showcase their work.



"I know a number of creative, hard working artists that have yet to be fully recognized. I hope this venture could serve as a stepping off point into larger opportunities."

The Hnatyshyn Foundation – Fogo Island Arts Young Curator Residency

We are proud to have sent two curators to Newfoundland and Labrador for six-week residencies at Fogo Island Arts.

Katie Lawson



Katie Lawson attended the Residency in June and July of 2023. Her research at Fogo Island Arts contributed to her Winter 2024 exhibition at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery: *Erratic Behaviour*, featuring the work of Telford Keogh, Diane Borsato, Kelly Jazvac, Laura Moore, Meghan Price, Robert Hengeveld, Tahir Carl Karmali, and Tsēmā Igharas.

Lawson has held curatorial and programming positions in Ottawa, New York, and Toronto. She is working towards her PhD in Art and Visual Culture at Western University.

“This residency was an incredible experience that I am certain will fuel my work for years to come. The unique context of the island and warmth of the local community contributed to my ongoing research around contemporary art, climate change, island ecologies, waste, and more recently, our relationship with geological forms. I look forward to seeing the ways that the connections I developed will continue to grow, and ideas to flourish.”

Tak Pham

Tak Pham attended the Residency in October and November of 2023. Previously based in Regina as associate curator at the MacKenzie Art Gallery, he was recently appointed as Curator of Alberta University of the Arts’ Illingworth Kerr Gallery in Calgary. His writing has been widely published in Canadian and international art publications. His current research focus is on immersive experiences in contemporary art.



“[During the residency], I primarily worked on my book research project about immersive art. I took the time to do close reviews of essential theory books that I brought with me to the island. The result was an hour-long public lecture about the research featuring several case studies. I presented the talk for the first time to a small audience in Fogo towards the end of my residency. Since then, I have given it again to a lecture hall of art history students at the Alberta University of the Arts in Calgary. I plan to finesse the material in the lecture and convert it into two sample book chapters and a query to prospect potential publishers.”

The Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Awards

Inaugurated in 2006, **The Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Award for Excellence in Visual Arts** consists of an award \$25,000 given to a Canadian mid-career artist who has demonstrated excellence and innovation in their body of work and who shows promise of outstanding artistic achievement.

In 2007, the **Mid-Career Award for Curatorial Excellence** of \$15,000 was added to recognize a mid-career curator's contribution to the advancement of contemporary visual art in Canada.

Bridget Moser

The Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Award for Excellence in Visual Arts

Bridget Moser is a performance and video artist who combines strategies associated with prop comedy, experimental theatre, performance art, absurd literature, existential anxiety, and intuitive dance. She performs fragmented scenes that take multiple forms, including monologues, abstract body movement, and bizarre interactions with everyday inanimate objects. Her work deals with the trouble of constructing self-identity and the conditions of life under late capitalism.

In 2015, Moser won our Saunderson Prize for Emerging Artists. The selection committee's decision to grant her a mid-career award is a testament to The Hnatyshyn Foundation's ability to recognize and support exceptional talent!

Selection committee: **Lesley Johnstone** (Director of Exhibitions and Research, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal), **Suzy Lake** (Artist, Georgia Scherman Projects, Toronto, and Professor Emerita, University of Guelph), **Philip Monk** (Independent writer and 2011 laureate of The Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Award for Curatorial Excellence), **Monique Régimbald-Zeiber** (Painter) & **Jana Sterbak** (Multi-disciplinary artist).



Photo: Yuula Benivolski.



Video still, *My Crops Are Dying But My Body Persists* (2020). Courtesy of the artist. Videography: Paul Tjepkema.

Sharon Fortney

The Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Award for Curatorial Excellence

Sharon Fortney is the Curator of Indigenous Collections and Engagement at the Museum of Vancouver (MOV).

“I have been working as a Curator since 2000 when I guest curated *Sáttet te síwes* (Continuing Traditions) at the UBC Museum of Anthropology. Growing up in Victoria, my parents often took me to visit the RBCM (Royal British Columbia Museum) as a child. I didn’t know much about my Indigenous heritage at that time, but I recognized baskets in the displays as being the same style as ones in my grandparent’s home. This is how I learned that my mother’s family was Coast Salish.

In high school I did my work experience at the RBCM and afterwards decided I wanted to study archaeology. I was the first person in my family to attend university. Part way through my studies, I met my husband and moved to Calgary. This brought me to the Glenbow Museum, where I eventually started my museum career. I learned a lot about how to work with communities while I was there and was lucky to attend a culture camp on the Siksika Reserve organized by Clifford Crane Bear and the late Gerry Conaty. Since then, I have worked contract projects for several museums, and First Nations, in the Greater Vancouver area.



Fortney handling cattail grass during a knowledge repatriation workshop. Photo: Chantel Newman, 2022.



Exhibition view: *Acts of Resistance*, 2020, curated by Sharon Fortney. Courtesy of the Museum of Vancouver. Photo: Rebecca Blisset.

In 2017, I was offered a permanent position at the MOV. I like connecting with other Salish community members through my curatorial work. In this way, I honour my grandmother’s memory. She was a survivor of the Kuper Island residential school. I want to make the places I work safe spaces for community members to explore their history and reconnect with lost belongings. It’s important to me that my work supports what communities are trying to achieve. Right now, I am undertaking ‘Knowledge Repatriation’ work by curating workshops about traditional knowledge no longer practiced in Vancouver, for members of the host nations. This involves working with knowledge holders from neighbouring Salish communities to learn about harvesting materials and creating different types of belongings. I am learning beside my friends, and we are documenting our work for teaching others in their communities.”

Selection committee: **Audrey Genois** (Executive Director, MOMENTA | Biennale de l’image), **Jon Tupper** (former Director, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria), **Su Ying Strang** (Executive Director, Southern Alberta Art Gallery Maansiksikaitsitapiitsinikssin), **Jennifer McRorie** (Director and Curator, Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery), **Jaimie Isaac** (former Chief Curator, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, former Curator of Contemporary and Indigenous Art, Winnipeg Art Gallery, and co-founder, Ephemerals Collective).

The William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes for Emerging Artists

Three awards of \$5,000 each awarded to emerging visual artists under the age of 30

Jurors: **Michelle Jacques** (Head of Exhibitions and Collections and Chief Curator, Rемаi Modern, Saskatoon, & 2022 laureate of The Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Award for Curatorial Excellence) & **Hajra Waheed** (visual artist and 2022 laureate of The Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Award for Excellence in Visual Arts)



Maggy Hamel-Metsos, Shaya Ishaq & Lan “Florence” Yee
Image credits: William Bobby Sabourin; Brandon Brookbank; Jordan Dawson.

Maggy Hamel-Metsos

Working primarily in sculpture, Metsos’s practice is a negotiation between the singular (personal) and the common (cultural). Through objects, images and text, she establishes semantic connections between the personal, the mythological and the historical. She is interested in the mechanisms of reduction, expansion and abstraction present in language. Her work has been exhibited and acquired in private collections in Canada, Germany, and the USA. *Caretakers*, her debut exhibition at the Parc Offsite gallery in Montreal, took place in 2021 and was followed by a second solo show entitled *Whole Wide World*. Recent exhibitions include *Life’s Marching Band* at Pumice Raft (Toronto) and *My Whole World* at Baader-Meinhof (Omaha). She is the 2021 Québec recipient of the BMO 1st Art! Prize and is a laureate of Fonderie Darling’s 2023-2026 Montreal Studio Program.



Metal Fortress Mind, 2023, hand polished nickel, copper and silver-plated steel cards on magnetic aluminum board, 21x22,5 inches. Photo: alignments.



House of Cards (349 Ryding ave. the Junction, Toronto), 2022, hand-polished steel cards, variable dimensions. Photo: Parker Kay/Pumice Raft.

Shaya Ishaq

Shaya Ishaq is an interdisciplinary artist, writer and designer interested in craft, diaspora, design anthropology, and temporality.

“Devoted to materiality, I often work with textiles and clay to create wearable art, jewelry, and immersive installations that embrace the emergent possibilities of spatial design. Through the meditative processes of weaving, felting, and handmade ceramics, I explore the nuances of my positionality and the liminality of rites of passage which often leads to sculptural textile and ceramic works.”



“I would like to extend gratitude to my incredible matrilineage of Nubi and Lugbara weavers who I feel infinitely connected to in my practice as a weaver and material based artist.”

Above: *Face jug no.1*, 2022. Resin. Photo: Roya Del Sol.

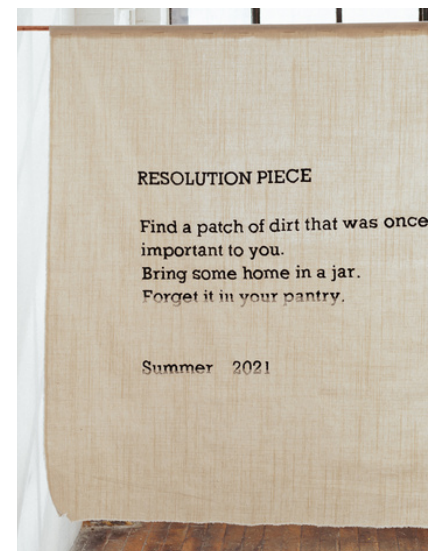
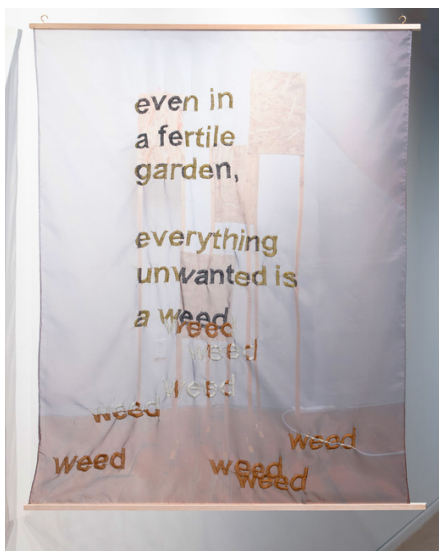
Left: *Containing Worlds Within Worlds*, 2021. Plywood, paint.

Lan “Florence” Yee

Lan “Florence” Yee is based in Tkaronto/Toronto and Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montreal.

“I was only able to learn about the migratory experiences of my parents and grandparents through university history classes and Wikipedia. This unfortunate irony became the subject and tone of my early work, centred on diasporic anxieties, migrant silence, and assimilationist imperatives.”

“I am indebted to my professors at Dawson College, Concordia University, and OCAD U, who guided me towards alternative ways of doing and being, namely Peter Morin, Alice Ming Wai Jim, Heather Igloliorte, Louise Arsenault, Mary Sui-Yee Wong, and Nadia Myre. Their belief in building better worlds has likewise encouraged me to seek more sustainable ecosystems in art and collectivity.”



“I collect text in underappreciated places and ferment it until it is too suspicious to ignore.”



Top left: *The Weeds*, 2023, hand-embroidered thread on inkjet-printed organza, 36” x 48”. Photo: Alison Postma.

Top right: *RESOLUTION PIECE*, 2022, hand embroidery on linen and copper rods, each 5’ x 5’. Photo: Jordan Dawson.

Right: *PROOF—Community is easy to romanticize*, 2022, hand embroidery on inkjet-printed cotton voile, 36” x 48”. Photo: Darren Rigo.

Ukraine – Heritage, Spirit and Future

Thank you to all who joined us at our gala or supported *Ukraine – Heritage, Spirit and Future*. Over 450 attendees enjoyed performances by our award winners and helped us raise over \$400,000 to help restore or rebuild an art facility in Ukraine. We look forward to announcing the institution that will receive the funds.

Concert highlights



The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Gerda Hnatyshyn and Olena and Yaroslav from the Kyiv-based band ТОНКА.

Anna Shalaykevych signs an autograph for a young fan.

Catherine Clark (left) with Rosemary Thompson, Thompson's husband Pierre Boulet, and their daughter Jasmine.

Silent Auction

Thanks to the businesses, artists, and individuals who selflessly donated items and services, we raised over \$7,000 from the auction alone!

Aesthete MD • Aurelius • Mette Baker • Black Tartan Kitchen • Bloomfields • Edward Burtynsky • Canada Council for the Arts Art Bank • Chef's Paradise • Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Canada • Joan Evans • Martin Golland • Gray Line • Patsea Griffin • Lisa Hollowach-Bell • Jacobsons • Mercedes Benz Star Motors of Ottawa • National Arts Centre • National Gallery of Canada • Oresta • Mariya Orlenko • Ottawa Art Gallery • Ottawa Chamberfest • Ottawa Jazz Festival • Oksana Rewa • Royal Canadian Mint • Val Knows Vintage

Thank you to Cheemo Perogies, Orange Turtle Bakery & Rosewood Wines for donating food and refreshments enjoyed during the reception.



Former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Perry Bellegarde and his wife Valerie Galley (right), policy analyst and writer on Indigenous Priorities, with The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell (centre).

Photos: John-Finnigan Lin.

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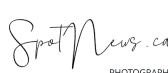


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2023 Team and Volunteers

We extend a special thank-you to the many volunteers and staff who made this year's accomplishments possible.

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Founder



Isabella d'Éloïze Perron performing Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* at the Palais Montcalm in Quebec City. Photo: Tam Luong.

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Julianna Bryson, laureate of the Developing Artist Grant for
Contemporary Dance. Photo: Naomi Caulfield Photography.