



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Hnatyshyn Foundation Announces \$55,000 in Awards
for Canadian Visual Artists and Curators**

Ottawa, September 29, 2021 — Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, today announced this year’s recipients of the Foundation’s Visual Arts Awards.

The \$25,000 Visual Arts Award, presented for outstanding achievement by a Canadian mid-career artist, was given to **Isabelle Hayeur**. The winner of the \$15,000 Award for Curatorial Excellence in contemporary art is **Heather Igloliorte**. In addition, three \$5,000 William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes for Emerging Artists were awarded to **Dan Cardinal McCartney, Oreka James and Simranpreet Anand**.

“The Hnatyshyn Foundation applauds these talented artists,” said Mrs. Hnatyshyn, “and is grateful to donors William and Meredith Saunderson, in particular, for making the emerging artist awards possible. It is with their generous support that we are able to continue our mission of enriching the legacy of art in this country for the benefit of all Canadians.”

All winners were selected by panels of art experts. The Hnatyshyn Foundation sincerely thanks the jurors listed below for their generous assistance:

Visual Artist Award

- **Dominique Blain** (Montreal, QC) — Artist and Curator
- **Linda Graif** (Montreal, QC) — Independent Curator
- **Anthony Kiendl**, (Vancouver, BC) — CEO-Director, Vancouver Art Gallery

Award for Curatorial Excellence

- **Crystal Mowry** (Regina, SK) — Director of Programs, MacKenzie Art Gallery
- **Shannon Parker** (Halifax, NS) — Curator, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
- **Christine Redfern** (Montreal, QC) — Director/Curator, ELEPHANT Art Gallery

William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes for Emerging Artists

- **Emelie Chhangur** (Kingston, ON) — Director and Curator of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and the recipient of The Hnatyshyn Foundation’s 2020 Award- Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Art.

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General. The Foundation assists emerging and established artists, in all disciplines, with their training and professional development, and promotes the importance of the arts in Canadian society. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations, and individuals. Since it began programming in 2005, the Foundation has provided more than \$3.7 million in support to Canadian visual artists, performing artists and curators.

For more information about the programs
of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, please contact:

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About the Laureates

Isabelle Hayeur



Isabelle Hayeur (*Artist*) holds a MFA in visual arts from l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). She is known for her photographs and her experimental videos. She has also realized public art commissions, several site-specific video installations and photography books. Her work is situated within a critical approach to the environment, urban development and to social conditions. Since the late 1990s, she has been probing the territories she goes through to understand how our contemporary civilizations take over and fashion their environments. She is concerned about the evolution of places and communities in the neoliberal sociopolitical context we currently live in.

“I am very grateful and honoured to receive the Mid-Career Award 2021 Visual Art Award. My art practice is in complete effervescence at the moment and this award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation will allow me to continue to build on this creative momentum”.

Heather Igloliorte



Dr. Heather Igloliorte (*Curator*) is an Inuk and Newfoundlander from Nunatsiavut, she has been an independent curator for sixteen years and is a founding member of GLAM Collective. She is the lead guest curator of *INUA: Inuit Nunangat Ungammuaqtut Atautikkut (Inuit Moving Forward Together)*, the inaugural exhibition of the new Inuit art centre, Qaumajuq, which opened March 2021 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The exhibition is a ground-breaking survey of contemporary art from Alaska, Canada, and

Greenland. Her other recent projects include the permanent exhibition *Ilippunga*; the internationally touring co-curated exhibition *Among All These Tundras*; and *SakKijâjuk: Art and Craft from Nunatsiavut*, which won the Canadian Museums Award for Education in 2017. Igloliorte is the University Research Chair in Circumpolar Indigenous Arts at Concordia University in Tiohtiá:ke/ Montreal, where she leads the Inuit Futures in Arts Leadership SSHRC Partnership Grant and Co-Directs the Indigenous Futures Research Centre. She is also the President of the Board of the Inuit Art Foundation and also serves as the Co-Chair of the Indigenous Circle for the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

"I am honoured to receive this award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation, and for the recognition of its esteemed jurors. My curatorial practice aims to centre Indigenous artists, celebrate the dynamic continuity of our cultures, and share new and exciting—and often underrepresented—contemporary artists with the public. I also try to prioritize the mentorship of emerging voices and building capacity across the arts through this work, in order to contribute to Indigenous peoples' artistic and curatorial agency and excellence. As such, I feel this award also recognizes the importance of continuing to make space for emerging curators for the future. Nakummesuak ilonnasi (thank you all so much!)"

William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes for Emerging Artists

Dan Cardinal McCartney



Dan Cardinal McCartney is an interdisciplinary artist and emerging curator who holds a degree from AUArts (2016) in Drawing. He is of Mikisew Cree, Dene (Chipewyan), Métis, and mixed settler family lines from Fort Chipewyan, and is a foster care survivor raised in the northern Boreal of Fort McMurray. As a Two Spirit, transgender artist, Dan sifts through patterns of intergenerational trauma, his personal connection between Indigenous diaspora and his gender dysphoria, and colonial impacts on his family.

"I am honoured to be one of the 2021 William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes for Emerging Artists. This prize is a gift, and one that I will cherish moving forward in artmaking. There is no words to describe the gratitude I hold for every person who has believed in the need for a Two Spirit, transgender artist to create. I hope this award will bring pride to my relations, family, and ancestors"

Oreka James



Oreka James is a Toronto-based painter, photographer, printmaker and multidisciplinary practitioner. They are a member of the GTA-based Black Artists Union ([BAU Collective](#))—a platform for the promotion, exhibition, mentorship, and support of contemporary Black creators of the African Diaspora.

“I am humbled to have been chosen as one of your recipients for the 2021 Saunderson’s Emerging Artist prize. It was a most pleasant surprise to be recognized by your establishment at such a challenging time. I appreciate the thoughtfulness and assistance you offer to artists to encourage their art-making and careers. Thanks for your support”.

Simranpreet Anand



Simranpreet Anand is an artist, curator, and cultural worker creating and working on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples (Vancouver). Her work is informed by her familial and community histories, often working with materials and concepts drawn from the histories of Punjabis and the Punjabi diaspora. Her work culminates in a mixture of cultural, textual, and material forms that are presented in ways that interrogate stereotypes, colonial legacies, and material histories.

“I am extremely honoured and grateful to be receiving The Hnatyshyn Foundation’s Saunderson Prize for Emerging Artists in recognition of my dedication to artistic practice. The prize will contribute towards the continued interrogation of systemic racism and parallel settler colonial structures in my work”.