



MEDIA RELEASE:

Embargoed until 11pm, Friday 26th September, 2014

New Zealand takes Supreme Award at the 2014 WOW Awards Show

Please note: as designers are unaware their garment has been selected to receive an award, please do not contact them until after the winning garments have been announced at the Awards Ceremony and the show has closed at 11pm, Friday 26th September, 2014.

For the second year in a row a New Zealand Designer has taken out the top prize at the World of WearableArt Awards Show. Hawkes Bay-based Kate MacKenzie walked away the 2014 Brancott Estate Supreme WOW® Award at tonight's 26th show, taking home \$30,000 in prizes.

The two-piece entry, called 'Poly Nation,' was designed by MacKenzie who is an artist and marketing supervisor and made using leather and cardboard suitcases. The garment was inspired by the idea that if suitcases could talk they would carry stories of travel, culture and integration. It symbolizes the people who are drawn to New Zealand with suitcases in hand in which they carry their new ideas and beliefs like new seeds, ready to grow, integrate and cross pollinate.

Dame Suzie Moncrieff says that this year's Supreme WOW® Award Winner has a clear artistic integrity. "New Zealand is a nation that has developed a strong identity based on the cultural influences brought by the people who migrated to its shores, and who continue to arrive today. This garment clearly symbolizes the baggage they bring with them in terms of culture, belief systems and ideas."

The Runner Up to the Brancott Estate Supreme Award hails from San Francisco in the USA. Lynn Christiansen has entered WOW seven times taking out a number of awards including the 2013 International Americas Award. Her entry this year, Gothic Habit, was also awarded first prize in the Open Section. Made from laser-etched felt and wood this garment was constructed with more than 2300 individually cut pieces that were painstakingly assembled to create an astonishing sculpture of a gothic cathedral.

Christiansen's inspiration for the garment was drawn from the idea that entering a religious building provides a spiritual experience in itself, the rising arches, heavy stone and raw beauty are stunning.

Christiansen said, "Ever since I discovered WOW in 2007 I try to enter every year. There is nothing else in the world that offers the opportunity to showcase wearable art and to interact with other wearable art designers."

The guest judges sculptor, Jeff Thomson and fashioned designer, Vicky Taylor joined the Founder of WOW® Dame Suzie Moncrieff, on the panel. The decision-making was unanimous and every garment that had been selected to compete on stage and be modelled in the WOW® show, were of an equally high calibre.

This year's WOW show once again provided

ENDS:

The World of WearableArt™ Awards Show is New Zealand's single largest arts show, and this season's production is the competition's 26th show.

It is a truly world-class event, and a competition open to designers throughout the world. This year's show season is another sell-out, as nearly 50,000 show-goers from all over the world witness the breathtaking, two-hour spectacular of art, theatre, dance, and music, bringing to life 158 incredible designs. This high-energy show tells a powerful visual story, around the top designs chosen from several hundred as competitors to take to the stage.

Dame Suzie Moncrieff created the WOW® concept in 1987 to challenge designers to take "art off the wall and onto the human form". Designers come from all occupations, from many different backgrounds and from around the world. WOW® gives designers the opportunity to be innovative and original, while not being bound by the constraints of commercialism. The only limit is imagination.

For media enquiries please contact:

For more information, releases and imagery please go to www.worldofwearableart.com/media

To arrange further comment, please contact Shelley Doherty at media@worldofwearableart.com or 03 5459300.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Please initially refer to the show as the World of WearableArt™ Awards Show - which can then be shortened to WOW® Awards Show. Please publish the full names for sections and awards - i.e. the Air New Zealand South Pacific Section, and please credit the photos with the garment's name and that of the designer.

2014 WOW AWARDS SNAP SHOT

There were a total of 166 entries by 171 designers (some, who worked in pairs on one entry) chosen to appear in this year's show to compete for a prize pool of 37 awards.

New Zealand-designed garments won 16 awards and 21 awards were won by 17 international designs.

Fourteen Honourable Mentions were made of 9 New Zealand and four international designed garments.

- Auckland, New Zealand designed garments won three awards and three Honourable Mentions
- Canterbury, New Zealand designed garments won two awards and an Honourable Mention
- Greater Wellington, New Zealand designed garments won four awards and four Honourable Mentions
- Hawke's Bay, New Zealand designed garments won two awards (this was the same garment which won two major prizes).
- Nelson, New Zealand designed garments won one award and one Honourable Mention.
- Timaru, New Zealand designed garment won one award.
- Matamata, New Zealand designed garment won one award.
- Wanaka, New Zealand designed garment won one award.
- Wanganui, New Zealand designed garment won one Honourable Mention.
- Chinese designed garments won four awards and one Honourable Mention
- Australian designed garments won three awards.

- Indian designed garments won two awards.
- Garments from the Netherlands won two awards.
- One garment from Qatar won two awards.
- Two garments designed in Taiwan won Honourable Mentions.
- United Kingdom designer won two awards with separate garments.
- One award has gone to a designer in Germany
- United States of America designed garments won four awards (including a top award -winner Open Section and a major award) and one Honourable Mention.
- One award has gone to a designer from Denmark

2014 WOW Winners

Brancott Estate Supreme WOW Award WOW

Winner: *Poly Nation* by Kate MacKenzie, New Zealand

Runner Up: *Gothic Habit* by Lynn Christiansen, USA

American Express Open Section

First: *Gothic Habit* by Lynn Christiansen, USA

Second: *Visionnaire*, Carmel Pollock, New Zealand

Third: *Bling Warrior*, Ali Khan and Frida Khan, Qatar

Honorable Mention: *Lonely Queen*, Xu Lihao, China

Honourable Mention: *Optical*, New Zealand

Avant Garde Section

First: *My Gradational Body* by Zhujun Zhu, China

Second: *Only Angels Have Wings* by Nikoline Liv Andersen, Denmark

Third: *This Is Not Your Love Letter* by Rodney Leong, New Zealand

Honorable Mention: *Girl with Zero Size* by Yi-Yo, Taiwan

Honorable Mention: *To Build it Up* by Ming Sui Hsueh, Taiwan

Children's Section

First: *Fenced Off* by Luiz Fernando Sereno Penna, New Zealand

Second: *Ruby Raindrop* by Sean Purucker, USA

Third: *Hobart the White* by Jessica Thompson, Australia

Honourable Mention: *Pinker Bell* by Paula Rowan, New Zealand

Honourable Mention: *Life in the Shadowy Depths* by Luiz Fernando Sereno Penna, New Zealand

Air New Zealand South Pacific Section

First: *Poly Nation* by Kate MacKenzie, New Zealand

Second: *Phoenix Transformer* by Kris Erickson and Ian Loveridge, New Zealand

Third: *Kahu Kereru* by Andi Regan, New Zealand

Honorable Mention: *Princess of Pine* by Tanya Kerr, New Zealand

Honorable Mention: *In Flight* by Liz Ritchie, New Zealand

Spark Creative Excellence Section: Airborne

First: *Waving George* by Annkathrin Selthofer, Germany

Second: *Parachute Bride* by Susan Holmes, New Zealand

Third: *Survivor* by Yinghan Liu China

Honorable Mention: *Wind Walker* by Hannah Goldblatt, New Zealand

Bizarre Bra Section

First: *Re-Decked* by Sebastian Denize, New Zealand

Second: *The Bra of Marbles* by Sarvshakti Yadav, India

Third: *Wood You Wear It?* by Ross Hardie and Rachel Hardie, New Zealand

Honorable Mention: *Poutrageous* by Nicki van Asch, New Zealand

Honorable Mention: *YEAH NAH Bra* by Heather Taylor, New Zealand

WETA Costume and Film Section

First: *Sakana No Senshi* by Mark Dobson, New Zealand

Second: *Emperor Hidden Moths and His Minions* by Dylan Moulder, New Zealand

Third: *The Theomorphic King* by Deepit Chugh and Khushboo Shroff, India

Honorable Mention: *Gesta Hungarorum* by Daniella Sasvari, New Zealand

Honorable Mention: *Water Dancers* by Rebecca Wendlandt, USA

WOW Factor Award

Winner: *Sulphur Crested Frockatoo* by Emily Valentine Bullock, New Zealand

Runner Up: *The Secret of the Golden Flower* by Joanna Peacock, UK

Shell Sustainability Award

Winner: *Appearance* by Laura van Staveren, Netherlands

Runner Up: *Battle Suite* by Christeena MacDonald-Paea, New Zealand

Shell Student Innovation Award

Winner: *Baroque Living Room* by Tess Tavener Hanks, Australia

Runner Up: *Survivor* by Yinghan Liu, China

First Time Entrant Award:

Winner: *Bling Warrior* by Ali Khan and Frida Khan, Qatar

Runner Up: *Colourless Rhythm* by Tiel Janssen, Netherlands

New Zealand Design Award

Winner: *Pop Cultural* by Nicki van Asch, New Zealand

