



MEDIA RELEASE:

Embargoed until 11pm, Friday 25th September, 2015

Nelson Designer takes Supreme Award at the 2015 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 25th September, 2015.

For the third year in a row a New Zealand Designer has taken out the top prize at the World of WearableArt Awards Show. Nelson based designer Peter Wakeman has walked away with the 2015 Brancott Estate Supreme WOW® Award at tonight's 27th show, taking home \$30,000 in prizes.

The stunning entry "Diva's Dreamscape" was entered in the *Creative Excellence Section: Architecture* and is a clever interpretation of the Art Deco era of design. Made of .stainless steel, wood and Peter's trademark fibreglass, the garment impressed the judges with its exquisite workmanship.

Dame Suzie Moncrieff noted that this year's Supreme WOW® Award Winner has a clear artistic integrity and responded perfectly to the brief for the *Creative Excellence Section*. "Diva's Dreamscape" really is a stunning piece of art, it has a strong simplicity that works perfectly from every angle. The use of such hard materials to create a sophisticated garment demonstrates great skill and creative ability."

This is the third time that Peter has entered WOW and the second time he has won a prize, he was named Runner Up to the Supreme Award Winner in 2013 for his pink fibre glass creation "Chica under Glass".

The Runner Up to the Brancott Estate Supreme Award hails from Shanghai in China. Xi Zhang a student from Donghua University won with her striking garment "Deadly Beauty". Entered in the *Wellington Airport Avant Garde Section* this garment is made from feathers, beads and mesh cloth, it has a strong sculptural shape that impressed the judges with its intense colour palette and powerful stage presence.

The guest judges sculptor, Greer Twiss and fashioned designer, Denise L'Estrange Corbet 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 extremely high calibre.

ENDS:

The World of WearableArt™ Awards Show is New Zealand's single largest arts show, and this season's production is the competition's 27th 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 107 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 Ali Boswijk at media@worldofwearableart.com or 027 482 1462.

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.

2015 WOW Awards Winners

Brancott Estate Supreme WOW Award WOW

- Winner: *Diva's Dreamscape* by Peter Wakeman, Nelson, New Zealand
- Runner Up: *Deadly Beauty* by Xi Zhang, Donghua University, Shanghai, China

American Express Open Section

- First: *Tinker* by Jeff Thomson, Auckland, New Zealand
- Second: *The Quilt Monster* by Daisy May Collingridge, Woldingham, UK
- Third: *Flow of Creation* by Kirsten Fletcher, Feltham, Middlesex, UK

Wellington Airport Avant Garde Section

- First: *Deadly Beauty* by Xi Zhang, Donghua University, Shanghai, China
- Second: *Lucid Dreaming* by Liangshan Huang, Donghua University Shanghai, China
- Third: *Mona* by Kerryta Chau, Wing Lam Yeung and Emily Lau, Hong Kong Design Institute.

Children's Section

- First: *For Annie* by Doreen Helms & Susan Thurner, Nelson New Zealand
- Second: *Pablo* by Jessica Thompson, Brisbane Australia
- Third: *Reel or Imagined* by Ann Skelly, Waiheke Island New Zealand

Aotearoa Section

- First: *On Reflection* by Philippa Stichbury, Melbourne, Australia
- Second: *Interwoven* by Carol Laloli, Auckland, New Zealand
- Third: *Honor the Huia* by Robyn Parkinson, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Creative Excellence Section: Architecture

- First: *Diva's Dreamscape* by Peter Wakeman, Nelson, New Zealand
- Second: *Dance with Death* by Jiefei Wang, Donghua University, Shanghai, China
- Third: *Mechanical Revolution* by Fan Luo, Donghua University, Shanghai, China

Man Section: Uniform

- First: *Piper of the Lights* by Chris Wilson and Gary Wilson, Upper Hutt, New Zealand
- Second: *Apocalyptic Warrior* by Scott Sutcliffe, Tokyo, Japan
- Third: *One for Sorrow* by Gillian Saunders, Nelson, New Zealand

WETA Costume and Film Section

- First: *To Be or Not to Be* by Joanna Peacock, Colchester, UK
- Second: *M45 Pleiades* by Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis, UK
- Third: *Primary Sunset* by Sean Purucker and David Candelaria, Los Angeles, USA

Cirque du Soleil Performance Art Costume Award

- Winner: *Kaleidoscope* by Tess Tavener Hanks, Sydney, Australia

WOW Factor Award

- Winner: *Get Behind Me Satan* by Rodney Leong, Auckland, New Zealand
- Runner Up: *Honeycomb* by Xin Liu, Donghua University, Shanghai, China

Wearable Technology Award

- Winner: *Exotic* by Qianwen Hong, Donghua University, Shanghai, China
- Runner Up: *The Piper of the Lights* by Chris Wilson and Gary Wilson, Upper Hutt, New Zealand

Shell Sustainability Award

- Winner: *Templa Mentis* by Daniella Sasvari, Wanganui, New Zealand
- Runner Up: *The Barley Dancer* by Vanessa Burton, Auckland, New Zealand

Shell Student Innovation Award

- Winner: Kaleidoscope by Tess Tavener Hanks, Sydney, Australia
- Runner Up: The Floating: Yanjingting Chen, Donghua University, Shanghai, China

First Time Entrant Award:

- Winner: *Brave New World* by Ewelina Kosmal, Konskie, Poland
- Runner Up: *Cerulean* by Cushla O'Connell, Christchurch New Zealand

New Zealand Design Award

- Winner: *Tinker* by Jeff Thomson, Auckland, New Zealand

Wellington International Award

- Winner: *M45 Pleiades* by Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis, London, UK

Wellington International Awards: UK/Europe

- Winner: *M45 Pleiades* by Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis, London, UK

Wellington International Awards: Americas

- Winner: *Starship Girl* by Julian Hartzog, Florida, USA

Wellington International Awards: Asia

- Winner: *Mona* by Kerryta Chau, Wing Lam Yeung and Emily Lau, Hong Kong Design Institute

Wellington International Awards: Australia / South Pacific

- Winner: *The Stitch Witch* by Sarah Seahorse and Luna Aquatica, Melbourne, Australia

2015 WOW AWARDS SNAP SHOT

There were a total of 107 entries by 123 designers (some, who worked in pairs on one entry) chosen to appear in this year's show to compete for a prize pool of 40 awards with a combined value of NZ\$165,000.

A total of 13 New Zealand-designed garments won 15 awards and 25 awards were won by 18 international designs.

- Auckland, New Zealand designed garments won three section prizes and three special awards
- One designers from Canterbury, New Zealand won a special award.
- One design duo from Wellington won two awards.
- Four designers from Nelson, New Zealand won three sections awards and the WOW Supreme Award.
- One designer from the Wanganui won a special award.
- One designer from Palmerston North won a section award
- Six designers from Donghua University in Shanghai, China claimed four section prizes and three special awards and Runner Up to the Supreme.
- Five Australian designer won two section prizes and two special awards and the Cirque du Soleil Award.
- Three designers from Hong Kong claimed a section prizes and a special award.
- A first time entrant and the first entry from Poland has won one award.
- Five designers from the UK claimed four section prizes and two special awards.
- Three designers from the USA claimed one section prize and one special award.
- Tokyo-based Australian, Scott Sutcliffe has claimed a section prize