



MEDIA RELEASE:

Embargoed: until 11pm, Friday 25th September, 2015

AUCKLAND DESIGNERS WIN IN 2015 WOW AWARDS

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.

Five designers from the Auckland region claimed three section prizes and three special awards in the 2015 World of WearableArt™ Awards in Wellington tonight.

First place for the *American Express Open Section* was awarded to Auckland sculptor and previous winner Jeff Thomson for his entry 'Tinker' which was also selected for the New Zealand Design Award. The garment is made entirely from powder coated aluminium and is a tribute to the swaggers of years gone by and his own memories of walking the back country roads in New Zealand selling art works. Jeff is no stranger to WOW having now entered seven times since 2003. In 2013 his garment 'Mantilla' which he designed and created with his niece Fenella Fenton also won first place in the Open section.

Waiheke Island designer Ann Skelly was awarded third place in the *Children's Section: Imaginary Friends* for her garment "Reel or Imagined?". The design is made of reels of film, gauze, wool and fabric and is inspired by movies she saw as a child that influenced the development of a scary monster friend. Ann has entered WOW a total of eleven times and previously won three awards including two others in the Children's Section.

First time entrant Carol Laloli was awarded second place in the *Air New Zealand Aotearoa Section: Red, Black White* for her spectacular garment "Interwoven" which is completely red and made entirely from flax and leaf skeletons. Previous Supreme Award Winner Rodney Leong was also successful with his garment "Get Behind Me Satan" which was given the prestigious WOW Factor Award. This award is judged and presented by Dame Suzie Moncrieff to the garment she feels demonstrates best the essence of WOW.

In response to all of tonight's winners WOW Founder Dame Suzie Moncrieff said "the high standard of entries this year are a testament to the outstanding talent of our designers. The innovation and creativity in each garment, the wide range of materials used and the workmanship is truly inspirational "

Of the 107 entries to take the stage in tonight's 27th WOW Awards Show, the following Auckland-designed garments were award winners.

Tinker : Jeff Thompson (Helensville).

- First Place American Express Open Section.
- New Zealand Design Award

Reel or Imagined : Ann Skelly (Waiheke).

- Third Place, Children's Section: Imaginary friends.

Interwoven : Carol Laloli (Pukekohe),

- Second Place Air New Zealand Aotearoa Section: Red, Black White

Get Behind Me Satan : Rodney Leong (Massey),

- Winner, WOW factor Award

The Barley Dancer : Vanessa Burton (Birkenhead).

- Runner Up, Shell Sustainability Award.

ENDS:

Editors notes:

TINKER, Jeff Thomson

Jeff Thomson is a well-respected New Zealand sculptor who studied at the Elam School of Art in Auckland. His work can be seen in many New Zealand cities and he is most well-known for his work with corrugated iron, including a Holden Station Wagon made to exhibit in Te Papa. His design entry 'Tinker' was influenced by the two years he spent in the early 1980s walking the back country roads of New Zealand. He slept wherever he ended up at night, under bridges, in hay barns and even in hedges. He carried everything he needed to survive on his back and along the way made roadside artworks for farming folk.

REEL OR IMAGINED, Ann Skelly

Waiheke-based artist and illustrator Ann Skelly also describes herself as a 'part time mermaid'. She has entered WOW eleven times including in 2008 when she entered three separate garments and came second in the Children's Section. For her entry this year she was determined to use as many locally sourced and recycled materials as possible. In her words "the right materials simply showed themselves when I needed them and as the garment took shape I was reminded of many happy childhood memories."

INTERWOVEN, Carol Laloli

Carol Laloli is a floral designer based in Auckland. In 2006 she won the Ellerslie Flower Supreme Award and felt that the opportunity to create a design that reflected Aotearoa was too good a chance to miss.

Growing up in South Auckland with strong influences from European, Maori and Pacific Island cultures she feels a strong connection to the theme. “We should take every opportunity to celebrate the way cultures within New Zealand have enriched us as a nation and created a diverse and vibrant Aotearoa.

GET BEHIND ME SATAN, Rodney Leong

Rodney Leong has now entered WOW 16 times since 1995. Over the years he has won multiple awards including the WOW Supreme for his 2006 garment ‘The Love of Icarus’. Rodney is a freelance pattern maker who works ‘with no boundaries, no commercial sensibility or restrictions’. The inspiration behind his 2015 garment “Get Behind Me Satan” is to give people the freedom to live from tyrants and war, the word “Freedom” is literally wrapped around the body to protect the wearer and “to allow one to live as ones spirit allows.”

THE BARLEY DANCER, Vanessa Burton.

Originally from Australia Vanessa is a fashion designer based in Auckland. This garment is Vanessa’s third entry in the competition which she says she enters because “WOW brings me a lot of joy and the chance to be creative.” As the name suggest “The Barley Dancer” is made entirely from barley straw which was originally meant to go on Vanessa’s garden. The garment took literally hundreds and hundreds of hours over 5-6 months to make, a painstaking job that set off her family’s hay fever in the process.

For media enquiries please contact:

For more information, releases and imagery please go to www.worldofwearableart.com/media or contact Ali Boswijk at media@worldofwearableart.com or 027 482 1462.

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Vanessa Burton	(p) 029 444 1441 (e) vanessa.burton@hotmail.com

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, 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