



**MEDIA RELEASE:**

**Embargoed:** until 11pm, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

## **AUSTRALIAN 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 (NZST), Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.*

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

First place for the *Air New Zealand Aotearoa Section: Red, Black White* was awarded to Melbourne-based Philippa Stichbury for her garment "On Reflection". Originally from New Zealand, Philippa constructed the garment using cardboard, fabric and feathers and it depicts the history, cultures and natural beauty of New Zealand. The design references a number of Maori stories that Philippa heard as a child and twenty-three New Zealand artists and their interpretation of the country's unique landscape.

Brisbane crocheter, Jessica Thompson was given second place in the *Children's Section: Imaginary Friends* for her larger than life character "Pablo". As the catalogue description says "Big ears to hear my secrets. Big hands to hold me when I am scared." Made entirely from wool, "Pablo" is based on an imaginary friend named Monkey that Jessica has been told she had and wishes she could remember.

Tess Tavener Hanks who is studying for a Bachelor of Fashion and Textiles Design at the University of Technology in Sydney has been awarded the coveted *Cirque du Soleil Performance Art Award* and *Student Award* for her garment Kaleidoscope. As winner of the former she has won the chance to spend one month working in the costume department of Cirque du Soleil's international headquarters in Montreal. Her garment "" was entered into the Creative Excellence Section: Architecture and is as the name suggested a brightly coloured design made from acrylic, dowel, nylon line and painted fabric.

The International Award for Australia and the South Pacific was awarded to first-time entrants design duo, Sarah Seahorse and Luna Aquatica for their colourful garment The Stitch Witch. This design made of lycra scraps, thread, buttons and wire was entered in the Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section: Other Worlds. The duo describe themselves as "practising textile artists / costumieres / fabric freaks that seek to push the boundaries of wearable radical expression and adornment".

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 27<sup>th</sup> WOW Awards Show, the following Australian-designed garments were award winners.

**On Reflection** : Philippa Stichbury (Melbourne).

- Air New Zealand Aotearoa Section: Red, Black White.

**Pablo**: Jessica Thompson (Brisbane).

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

**Kaleidoscope**: Tess Tavener Hanks (Sydney)

- Winner Cirque du Soleil Performance Art Costume Award
- Winner Student Award

**The Stitch Witch**: Sarah Seahorse and Luna Aquatica (Melbourne),

- Winner, International Award for Australia and the South Pacific d

**ENDS:**

**Editors notes:**

**ON REFLECTION**, Philippa Stichbury

Philippa is a Melbourne-based teacher who has entered WOW each year since 2012. She describes herself as being addicted to creating and making a garment for WOW each year, the process of thinking up a concept and creating it stretches her imagination and gives her the opportunity to try new techniques and ideas. The garment, "On Reflection" is inspired by the story of her twenty-year old great-great-grandmother who disguised herself as a boy to follow her future husband to New Zealand. On her arrival they became the first European settlers to be married in Wellington.

**PABLO**, Jessica Thompson

Jessica Thompson also describes herself as being 'addicted to WOW'. "Pablo" is her fourth entry and her second win in the Children's Section, last year "Hobart the White" came third. In her own words "I don't think I could imagine September without being in Wellington and enjoying Designers Day. I love WOW and I want to be a part of it for the rest of my life."

**KALEIDOSCOPE**, Tess Tavener Hanks

Tess believes that as a tertiary student studying fashion design WOW has given her the creative freedom

to produce wearable art that parallels her studies. Winning the Student Award in 2014 for her garment Baroque Living Room has encouraged her to continue. As she says “being able to be part of an international competition that brings together designers from all walks of life and different skill sets – that is inspirational. Learning from other designers and being part of a competition so incredible I could not miss the opportunity to experience it all over again.”

### **THE STITCH WITH**, Sarah Seahorse and Luna Aquatica

Sarah and Luna entered the WOW Awards as it had been a dream for them for a long time to be involved “in such a fantastic celebration of wearable creativity.” The inspiration behind their first entry in the competition is an incarnation of all the precious but unwanted scraps, buttons, trinkets and junk from the floor of their sewing studio. Manifested into a magical mythical creature – The Stitch Witch.

### **For media enquiries please contact:**

For more information, releases and imagery please go to [www.worldofwearableart.com/media](http://www.worldofwearableart.com/media) or contact Ali Boswijk at [media@worldofwearableart.com](mailto:media@worldofwearableart.com) or 027 482 1462.

### **Designers Contact details:**

Philippa Stichbury	(p) + 61 3 9885 8004   (e) m.p.sc@bigpond.net.au
Jessica Thompson	(p + 61 7 3276 7687   (e) jessisko@gmail.com
Tess Tavener Hanks	(p) + 61 2 9484 0151   (e) ttavenerhanks@gmail.com
Sarah Seahorse	(p) + 61 4 3932 6061   (e) sarahseahorsie@gmail.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