



MEDIA RELEASE:

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DONGHUA UNIVERSITY 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 25th September, 2015.

Seven designers from Donghua University in Shanghai claimed four section prizes, three special awards and the runner up to the Supreme WOW Award in the 2015 World of WearableArt™ Awards in Wellington tonight. This is the first time that any of these designers have entered WOW.

First place for the *Wellington Airport Avant Garde Section* and *Runner Up to the Supreme* was awarded to Xi Zhang for her garment "Deadly Beauty". This brightly coloured design was inspired by the hue of the South American Scarlet Macaw and is made from feathers, beads and mesh cloth with an overall profile of a huge beetle.

Second place in the *Wellington Airport Avant Garde Section* was awarded to Liangshan Huang for her garment "Lucid Dreaming". Made entirely from wool, the design incorporates the deconstructed features of a face to symbolize the idea of a dream as an expression of repressed impulse and desires. The designer asks the question, "perhaps life is just a dream?"

"Dance With Death" by Jiefei Wang was awarded second place in the *Creative Excellence Section: Architecture* which is a garment made from PVC panel, acrylic and SLA. Designed to represent the busy lives that people lead that can get in the way of what they really want.

Fellow student Xin Liu was awarded a prize for his garment "Honeycomb", runner up in the *WOW Factor Award*. Made from PVC, EVA and double sided board, "Honeycomb" is inspired by the idea that in a world of increasing urbanisation the sense of belonging is becoming more treasurable.

Fan Luo entered WOW to make something original and creative and as a result her garment "Mechanical Revolution" was awarded third place in the *Creative Excellence Section: Architecture*. The design is made from PVC, iron, nylon and latex, it is created to be a mechanical time device giving a sense of precision and

eternity – time never stops. The designer is exploring the idea that as technology develops it will be incorporated more into fashion and apparel.

Qianwen Hong was named winner of the *Wearable Technology Award* for her garment “Exotic”. Made from PVC, Stainless Steel and fibre optic cable the designer is inspired by the idea that people should be in strong and independent, they should not ignore their inner feelings but be themselves – be exotic.

Student Yanjingting Chen was named Runner Up in the *Shell Student Innovation Award* for her garment “The Floating”. Made from glass rods and acrylic glass this design is inspired by sea anemones that appear to have a simple construction but can change colour in different lights like a changing personality.

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 Chinese-designed garments were award winners.

Deadly Beauty: Xi Zhang (Donghua University, Shanghai).

- First place, Wellington Airport Avant Garde Section
- Runner up to the Supreme WOW Award

Lucid Dreaming: Liangshan Huang (Donghua University, Shanghai).

- Second place, Wellington Airport Avant Garde Section.

Dance with Death: Jiefei Wang, (Donghua University Shanghai)

- Second place in the *Creative Excellence Section: Architecture*

Honeycomb: Xin Liu (Donghua University, Shanghai)

- Runner up in the WOW Factor Award.

Mechanical Revolution: Fan Luo (Donghua University, Shanghai)

- Third place in the Creative Excellence Section: Architecture

Exotic: Qianwen Hong (Donghua University, Shanghai)

- Winner, Wearable Technology Award

The Floating: Yanjingting Chen (Donghua University, Shanghai)

- Runner Up Shell Student Innovation Award

ENDS:

Editors notes:

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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