



MEDIA RELEASE:

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

NELSON 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.

Four designers from the Nelson region claimed section prizes and the Supreme WOW Award in the 2015 World of WearableArt™ Awards in Wellington tonight.

Motueka-based Peter Wakeman came first in the *Creative Excellence 'Architecture' Section* and was named WOW Supreme Award Winner for 2015 for his garment "Diva's Dreamscape". This is the third time that Peter has entered WOW and was named Runner Up to the Supreme in 2013 with his garment "Chica Under Glass". "Diva's Dreamscape is made of stainless steel, wood and fibreglass and is clearly influenced by the Art deco era of art, fashion and architecture. Peter's inspiration was to 'capture the futuristic industrial, blended with timeless beauty and glamour – a diva is born!'"

Design duo Doreen Helms and Susan Thurner came first in the *Children's Section: Imaginary Friends* with their fantastical silver rabbit "For Annie". Doreen is also no stranger to WOW having entered five times previously, coming third in the *Children's Section* in 2004, but "For Annie" is her first entry since 2006. Made from polyfoam, fabric and curtain rods the garment was inspired by a special little girl's love for her rabbit.

Richmond-based Gillian Saunders came third in the *Man Section: Uniform* for her garment "One for Sorrow". The design which is made from baling twine, watch parts and buttons is contains elements of three of Gillian's previous WOW entries including "Inkling" which came first in the Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section in 2013. "One for Sorrow" depicts a young magpie who has fallen whilst defending his territory, a funeral is held to honour his bravery.

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 Nelson-designed garments were award winners.

Diva's Dreamscape : Peter Wakeman (Motueka).

- First Place Creative Excellence: Architecture Section.
- Supreme WOW Award Winner

For Annie : Doreen Helms and Susan Thurner (Nelson).

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

One for Sorrow: Gillian Saunders

- Third Place, Man Section: Uniform

ENDS:

Editors notes:

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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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