



MEDIA RELEASE:

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UK 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.

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

Second place in the *American Express Open Section* was awarded to Daisy May Collingridge from Woldingham for her garment "The Quilt Monster". Made from viscose jersey, cotton lawn and wadding, the inspiration for the design is the fabled monster under, or in the bed that lurks in many children's tales.

Also a winner in the *American Express Open Section* is Kirsten Fletcher from Feltham who was awarded third place for her garment "Flow of Creation". This garment is made from wire, polystyrene, resin and foil and is an exploration of the inevitable flow between birth and death and the precious moments that reside within life's infinite cycle.

UK-based designers also excelled in the highly coveted *Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section*, the winner of which receives the opportunity to have a month-long internship at the Academy Award-winning design company based in Wellington, New Zealand. First place in the section was awarded to Joanna Peacock from Colchester for her highly impactful entry "To Be or Not to Be". The garment made from industrial silver waste scraps comprises of a queen bee and her workers and highlights the decline of the bee population around the world.

Second place in the *Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section* was awarded to London-based design duo Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis of Erevos Aether for their striking garment "M45 Pleiades". The design comprises three separate pieces all made of neoprene, mesh and acrylic mirror and represent Electra, Asterope and Alcyone, the most desirable of the seven virgin sisters who make up the Pleiades star cluster. This garment was also awarded the *Wellington International Award for UK/Europe*.

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 UK-designed garments were award winners.

The Quilt Monster : Daisy May Collingridge (Woldingham).

- Second Place, American Express Open Section.

Flow of Creation: Kirsten Fletcher (Feltham).

- Third Place, American Express Open Section.

To Be or Not to Be: Joanna Peacock (Colchester)

- First place, Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section

M45 Pleiades: Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis (London),

- First place, Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section
- Winner Wellington International Award for UK/Europe.

ENDS:

Editors notes:

THE QUILT MONSTER, Daisy May Collingridge

Daisy May is a freelance fashion designer who studied Fashion Design Womenswear at Central Saint Martins in London. This is the first time she has entered WOW and did so because the competition 'offers an exciting opportunity to create something well outside the normal realms of fashion design. The garment she created was hand dyed in her kitchen sink, draped and then free machine quilted and sometimes it was a fight to get it through the sewing machine.

FLOW OF CREATION, Kirsten Fletcher

Costume maker Kirsten Fletcher has entered WOW twice before and constructed "Flow of creation" when she was visiting friends and family in Australia. She continues to enter WOW as it provides an outlet for artistic practice and an opportunity to experiment with different materials. To complete "Flow of Creation" Kirsten spent literally hundreds of hours of sanding and many coats of resin.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE, Joanna Peacock

Professional artist Joanna Peacock previously entered WOW in 2014 with two garments and took away two awards for her design "Back to the Future Chrome Queen". She has been studying bee keeping and has fallen in love with 'these amazing creatures' and made "To Be or Not to Be" as a way of highlighting their

plight. The piece consists of a queen bee flanked by two workers who are carrying ladders which represent those places in the world where fruit trees now have to be pollinated by human workers. Yellow particles on the garments are the toxic pollen collected from crops treated with pesticides and the light bulbs in the queen's abdomen are symbolic of life and hope for the future.

M45 Pleiades, Maria Tsopanaki and Dimitri Mavinis

Maria and Dimitri are the designers behind fashion label Erevos Aether. They entered WOW following an invitation from Competition Director Heather Palmer and immediately saw it as an opportunity to showcase their work in a very different setting and on the other side of the world. Maria and Dimitri are making a name for themselves in the world of fashion and have recently had designs worn by high profile artists Lady Gaga and Jesse Jay. www.erevocaether.com

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

- 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