



MEDIA RELEASE:

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

USA 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.

Three designers from the USA claimed prizes in the 2015 World of WearableArt™ Awards in Wellington tonight.

LA designer Sean Purucker and design partner David Candelaria were awarded third place in the prestigious *Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section* for their garment "Primary Sunset". Judged by Weta Workshop Founder and Academy Award winner Sir Richard Taylor, the theme for this year's show was "Other Worlds". As the name suggests the inspiration behind Primary Sunset is the colours of the sunset and three primary colours of red, yellow and blue.

This is the first time that long-time WOW entrant Sean has worked with another person to create a garment for WOW. Sean has entered the competition fifteen times including this year and in most years with multiple entries. He has won seven awards in the past including the WOW factor Award which is selected by WOW Founder Dame Suzie Moncrieff for a garment that in her opinion demonstrates the essence of WOW..

Julian Hartzog a real estate investor from Florida was named Winner of the *Wellington International Award for the Americas* for his garment "Starship Girl". This was an award that he also won in 2104. "Starship Girl" was entered into the *Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section* and is made completely of mirrored stainless steel.

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.

Primary Sunset : Sean Purucker and David Candelaria (Los Angeles).

- Third Place, Weta Workshop Costume and Film Section.

Starship Girl: Julian Hartzog (Florida).

- Winner Wellington International Award for The Americas.

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