



**MEDIA RELEASE:**

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

## **WELLINGTON 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 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.*

Two designers from the Wellington Region claimed prizes in the 2015 World of WearableArt™ Awards in Wellington tonight.

Design Duo Chris and Gary Wilson from Upper Hutt came first in the *Man Section – Uniform* with their illuminated garment “The Piper of the Lights”. They were also named Runner Up in the *Wearable Technology Award*. As the name of the garment suggests “The Piper of the Lights” is a kilt made from aluminium, mylar, black polythene and LED lights and one of the challenges Chris and Gary faced was how to design and tartan look and ‘pleat’ the metal. This is the sixth time that the couple have entered WOW and have previously won two section awards. The inspiration for this garment came from Chris’s Scottish ancestry and their love of colour.

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 Wellington-designed garments were award winners.

**The Piper of the Lights:** Chris and Gary Wilson (Upper Hutt).

- First Place Man Section Uniform
- Runner Up Wearable Technology Award

**ENDS:**

**Editors notes:**

**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.

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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 Pleides* 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