



Strictly Embargoed until 11pm, Friday 23rd September 2016

Australia Media Information Sheet

2016 World of WearableArt™ award-winning designers from Australia

Tonight (Friday 23rd September) at the 2016 World of WearableArt™ (WOW®) Awards ceremony in Wellington, New Zealand, four Australian designers won awards for their WOW® garments. They are:

- *Cascade* by Victoria Edgar (Geelong)
 - Winner of the 2016 WOW® Australia and South Pacific Design Award
- *Minuet & Trio* by Philippa Stichbury (Melbourne)
 - Third place, Spyglass Creative Excellence Section: Surrealism, Cubism
- *Chameleon* by Catherine O'Leary (Melbourne) and Cheryl McHugh
 - Third place, MJF Performance Art Section: The Greatest Show On Earth

Further information about Australia's award winners

***Cascade* by Victoria Edgar**

Second-time entrant and creative jeweller and silversmith Victoria Edgar is the winner of the 2016 WOW® Australia and South Pacific Design Award with her garment *Cascade*.

"*Cascade* has been a project of mine for many years. As a student of gold and silversmithing at RMIT in Australia, I had a vision of a metal dress that was fully wearable, organically engineered with fine filigree and a mixture of brass, copper and 925 sterling silver," says Edgar. "Working up to *Cascade* I have designed and made 38 full body pieces and many thousands of unique jewellery pieces. The process has taken a thousand hours and given me the excuse to close my doors and just focus on the creation of *Cascade*. My hope is that the purity and intensity of this journey shine through."

***Minuet & Trio* by Philippa Stichbury**

New Zealand born Philippa Stichbury placed third in the Spyglass Creative Excellence Section: Surrealism, Cubism with her garment *Minuet & Trio*.

"The Cubist element of the Creative Excellence Section was a big attraction for me. I had studied Cubism at school and have always been interested in the ways in which images are manipulated. I often use the style when teaching art to children," says Stichbury. "When I googled Cubism, one of the first images that came up was Picasso's 'Three Musicians'. One of the musicians in that painting wears a yellow and orange diamond outfit. This was the start of the concept for my garment."

This is Stichbury's second win and fifth entry since 2012. Her garment *On Reflection* won the Air NZ Aotearoa Award last year.

***Chameleon* by Catherine O'Leary and Cheryl McHugh**

Catherine O'Leary in collaboration with Cheryl McHugh placed third in the MJF Performance Art Section: The Greatest Show On Earth with their garment *Chameleon*.

"I was inspired by chameleons and the way they change colour and patterns to adapt to each new situation and environment," says O'Leary.

O'Leary first entered WOW® in 2011 and *Chameleon* is her fourth entry.

About The World of WearableArt™

One of New Zealand's cultural success stories is the spectacular World of WearableArt™ (WOW®) created by Dame Suzie Moncrieff.

At the core of WOW® is an international design competition that attracts entries from all over the world. The range of garments produced for each year's WOW® competition is simply breathtaking, as the rules of competition mean that anything that is in any way wearable can find a place on stage, as long as it is original, beautifully designed and well-made. This also results in garments that are constructed from an extraordinary array of materials, pushing the boundaries of expectation.

Now staging its 28th production, the annual WOW® Awards Show presents selected designs in what is New Zealand's largest and most technically challenging theatrical production, brought to life by 350 cast and crew. For the 2016 show 163 designers' garments will be seen in performance by an audience of 58,000 over a three-week season in Wellington, New Zealand.

The winning garments from each year's show are then seen up close by more than 40,000 people at the iconic World of WearableArt™ and Classic Car Museum in Nelson, New Zealand.

WOW®'s international exhibition is currently being held at Seattle's EMP Museum until January 2017 after which it will travel to the Peabody Essex Museum in Boston and is expected to remain in the USA until 2019. The travelling exhibition showcases 32 award-winning garments curated to present the best of New Zealand's creative activity to the world.