



Strictly Embargoed until 11pm, Friday 23rd September 2016

Christchurch Media Information Sheet

2016 World of WearableArt™ award-winning designers from Christchurch

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

- *Baroque Star* by Natasha English and Tatyanna Meharry
 - Runners-up, Brancott Estate Supreme WOW® Award
 - First place, Weta Workshop Costume & Film Section: Baroque/Rococo
- *Strike A Chord* by Janice Elliott
 - Second place, Bizarre Bra Section

Further information about Christchurch's award winners

***Baroque Star* by Natasha English and Tatyanna Meharry**

Natasha English and her design collaborator Tatyanna Meharry are runners-up of the Brancott Estate Supreme WOW® Award and placed first in the Weta Workshop Costume & Film Section: Baroque/Rococo for their garment *Baroque Star*.

"Inspired by the Virgin Mary, our first global icon. Baroque and Rococo celebrate a time of great theatrics and excess in all things," says English. "Clothing, furniture, architecture, landscaping, and religion all adorned in overt decoration and our Holy Mary Mother of God was no exception. Draped in excess she was idolized and worshipped, loved equally by the rich and the poor. She was our first global icon travelling to the four corners of the earth. The original Madonna was a true Baroque star."

"This costume was created for all sorts of different reasons but making it is the great challenge. Using different materials that were unknown, and methods that were experimental, like using a flocking gun that looks like Flash Gordon's ray gun dressed up like Mr Magoo on a cleaning bender, was great! Still it is only fun being creative when you play with something you know nothing about! Experimentation creates great experiments."

This is the English and Meharry's second win and third entry. Their garment *The Exchange* won Supreme WOW® Award in 2013.

***Strike A Chord* by Janice Elliott**

Janice Elliott placed second for her bizarre bra *Strike A Chord*, which is made from recycled guitars.

Including *Strike A Chord*, Janice has entered 13 garments to WOW® since 2006 and this is her fifth award. Elliott won the Bizarre Bra Section in 2008 and placed second in the UV Section in 2012.

Elliott says her inspiration came from the roller coaster of emotions we encounter on our journey through life.

“We experience pleasure, joy, laughter, desire, hope, excitement and passion. We lust and we love. At times we may feel resentment, guilt, hatred, anger and fear. We feel frustration and we question. We also travel through the valley of death when we feel pain, despair and sadness. We hurt and we cry. These emotions pull on our heartstrings and strike a chord,” says Elliott.

“Entering WOW each year is a creative outlet for me. The fabricating of inspiring garments is a continuing challenge.”

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.