

China World of WearableArt™ Awards finalists announced

Twenty-four designers from China are among the finalists from 17 countries announced for this year's World of WearableArt (WOW) Awards Show.

The finalists from China are:

- Cheng Qi (Chongqing)
- Zhang Qiyao (Shanghai)
- Ma Shunshun (Shanghai)
- Xia Tian, Yang Mengtong, He Fangyu (three finalist designers in a design team) (Shanghai)
- Gao Wenzhi (Shanghai)
- Guo Xiao Tong (Beijing)
- Wu Xinyue (Shanghai)
- Liu Xuancheng (Shanghai)
- Sun Ye (Shanghai)
- Li Yiran (Chaoyang)
- Yeung Ping Chun (Hong Kong)
- Tam Shun Him (Hong Kong)
- Lau Siu San, Cathy, Sin Wei Chow (two finalist designers in a design team) (Hong Kong)
- Chan Suet Yi (Hong Kong)
- Wing Ting Mok, Wing Yu Ho (two finalist designers in a design team) (Hong Kong)
- Chan Tsz Kwan (Hong Kong)
- Yiu Wai Ching (Hong Kong)
- Chan Wai Tung (Hong Kong)
- Chung Wai Hei (Hong Kong)
- Alina Garcia (Macau)

New Zealand's most spectacular stage show will be returning for its 30th year this September in Wellington. About 60,000 attendees are expected to attend the 2018 World of WearableArt Awards Show season from 27 September to 14 October.

Eight of the finalist designers from China are current students at Donghua University. Fashion design professor, Mr Zhou said "WOW is the only avant-garde fashion design and the most influential international competition in the world. Many excellent designers come to the fore through this competition every year."

Another finalist this year is Guo Xiao Tong, a costume designer for film and television based in Beijing, and a Donghua University graduate.

WOW has received many student entries from Donghua University since the relationship first began in 2010, including *Delight of Light* by Ma Yuru and Wu Mengyue, which won the Supreme WOW Award in 2012.

WOW Competition Director Heather Palmer said this year's finalist designers were not afraid to take risks with their concepts and the execution of their garments to create something new and unique.

"This year's finalist garments show just how talented WOW designers are. Construction techniques like laser cutting, 3D design sculpting and melding art and science into the

garments are on show along with handbuilt elements such as weaving, ceramics and felting. There are strong sculptural and engineered techniques as well as painting and fabric concepts that are experimental and edgy.”

This year’s Show will be presented as a series of six worlds, each with its own design provocation that designers have responded to. Along with the recurring Avant-garde, Aotearoa and Open sections are Under the Microscope, Reflective Surfaces and a crowd-favourite, Bizarre Bra, she said.

“The finalist garments give us unique, forward-thinking and reflective interpretations of this year’s themes. Some will make the audience laugh, some will give you pause for thought, while others will simply wow.”

Finalists had been selected from 17 countries, up from 13 in 2017. New Zealand designers are the single most represented country with 65 finalist designers. Twenty-four finalist designers have been selected from China and 15 from the United States. Other countries represented include Poland, Greece, South Korea, Mexico and Russia.

WOW Chief Executive Gisella Carr said the selection of the 2018 finalists underlines the international interest in entering WOW.

“It’s fantastic to see 83 returning designers who want to be a part of our 30th anniversary show celebrations, among them eight previous Supreme WOW Award winners. Along with designers, our creative team also has significant returning talent headed by WOW Founder Dame Suzie Moncrieff and Show Director Malia Johnston who has worked on 14 WOW Shows.

“Our creative team has been working for more than a year on designing the 30th anniversary show, creating six unique worlds, inspired by the six competition themes, for the garments to inhabit. Now they have the exciting challenge of integrating each garment into the worlds to create a stunning theatrical show. It all gets very exciting from this point on for us, counting down to the show opening on 27 September.”

The first round of judging took place in early July in Nelson. This year, alongside WOW Founder and Resident Judge Dame Suzie Moncrieff, the judges are Margarita Robertson, Creative Director of iconic fashion label NOM*d, and Sam Gao, Art Director and Business Development Manager with Weta Workshop.

The finalist garments will go through two further stages of judging to determine the award winners. A second round of judging where the judges see the garments onstage with the individualised choreography that has been created for each entry. Then final judging when the judges have the opportunity to see the garments onstage again but this time in the context of the complete Show with lighting, set pieces and other stage effects. The judging panel will be joined by Sir Richard Taylor from Weta Workshop, a judge from Cirque du Soleil and an international guest judge who is yet to be announced.

NEW ZEALAND FINALISTS

Bay of Islands (2 finalist designers)

Isa Hackett
Lynda O'Rorke

Auckland region (20 finalist designers)

Ian Bernhard

Sally Blyth
Jayne Boesley
Alana Braddon-Parsons, Jolie Lam (two finalist designers in a design team)
Beatrice Carlson
Irma Covey
Lucy Danner
Carolyn Gibson
Rodney Leong
Maria McSporrán
Ben Ng-Wai Shing
Violet Oliver, Alana Braddon-Parsons (two finalist designers in a design team)
Violet Oliver
Shelley Scott, Jaime Scott, Ashley Scott (three finalist designers in a design team with two finalist entries)
Shelley Scott (has two finalist entries in her own right)
Sophie Smythe
Erna Van Der Wat, Karl Van Der Wat (two finalist designers in a design team)
Clara Wigmore

Bay of Plenty (3 finalist designers)

Louise Pickford
Shona Tawhiao
Kim Wood

Waikato (1 finalist designer)

David Kirkpatrick

Taranaki (2 finalist designers)

Anne Aitchison
Sheela Stoneman

Hawkes Bay (5 finalist designers)

Anna Grapes
Laurel Judd
Kate MacKenzie (has two finalist entries)
Rhys Richards, Kelsey Roderick (two finalist designers in a design team with three finalist entries)

Wellington region (15 finalist designers)

Michael Bennington
Kayla Christensen
Fifi Colston (two finalist entries)
Stephanie Cossens
Helena de Kok
Brita DellaBarca
Paula Jackson
Malini Jayathissa
Renee Louie
Natasha Macaulay
Ali Middleton
Sharon Painter-Arps

Louisa Marie Paterson
Vicky Robertson (two finalist entries)
Jenny Sutton

Nelson (7 finalist designers)

Janet Bathgate
Carol Hargadon
Meg Latham
Gillian Saunders
Mary Turner
Mike Ward, Jonty Ward (two finalist designers in a design team)
Mike Ward (has a finalist entry in his own right)

Christchurch (8 finalist designers)

Janice Elliott (two finalist entries)
Natasha English, Tatyanna Meharry (two finalist designers in a design team)
Simon Hames
Tina Hutchison-Thomas
Loretta Sloan
Kim Strange, Paul Strange (two finalist designers in a design team)

Otago (2 finalist designers)

Ruth Arkless
Carolyn Laing

INTERNATIONAL FINALISTS

Australia (8 finalist designers)

Jasna Bajlo Carr
Erica Gray (two finalist entries)
Natalie Hutton
R. R. Pascoe
Hanna Smith
Philippa Stichbury
Jessica Thompson
Svenja

China (12 finalist designers)

Cheng Qi
Zhang Qiyao
Ma Shunshun
Xia Tian, Yang Mengtong, He Fangyu (three finalist designers in a design team)
Gao Wenzhi
Guo Xiao Tong
Wu Xinyue
Liu Xuancheng
Sun Ye
Li Yiran

China (Hong Kong) (11 finalist designers)

Yeung Ping Chun
Tam Shun Him
Lau Siu San, Cathy, Sin Wei Chow (two finalist designers in a design team)
Chan Suet Yi
Wing Ting Mok, Wing Yu Ho (two finalist designers in a design team)
Chan Tsz Kwan
Yiu Wai Ching
Chan Wai Tung
Chung Wai Hei

China (Macau) (1 finalist designer)

Alina Garcia

France (1 finalist designer)

Marine Arnoul

Germany (2 finalist designers)

Anto Christ, Casio Ono (two finalist designers in a design team)

Greece (1 finalist designer)

Melissanthi Spei

India (2 finalist designers)

Jubinav Chadha
Shantanu Singh

Mexico (1 finalist designer)

Wendy Moyer

Netherlands (1 finalist designer)

Saar Snoek

Poland (1 finalist designer)

Nika Danielska (two finalist entries)

Russian Federation (1 finalist designer)

Maria Amirova

South Korea (1 finalist designer)

Cho Keunsu

Spain (2 finalist designers)

Julio Manuel Campos Lopez
Annabelle Widmann

Taiwan (13 finalist designers)

Miao Chi-Feng, Jiang Sin-Ting, Chen Xin-Ru (three finalist designers in a design team)
Kuo Fang-Yu, Hsu Yi-Ting, Chang Chih-Ling (three finalist designers in a design team with two finalist entries)
Lin Kaun Yu
Lin Yi-Chun, Chao Li-chia, Li Hsin-Yu (three finalist designers in a design team with two finalist entries)

Chen Yiyu
Li Zi-Jin, Tseng Wen-Min (two finalist designers in a design team)

Thailand (2 finalist designers)

Saruda Nimpitakpong, Chinachan Nimpitakpong (two finalist designers in a design team)

United Kingdom (7 finalist designers)

Louise Byford
Anna Cortada
Daheng Liu
Adam McAlavey
Liam Brandon Murray
Mingzhang Sun
Qiongwen Zhang

United States (15 finalist designers)

Susan Avila
Kelly Belt
Lynn Christiansen
Grace DuVal
Julian Hartzog (three finalist entries)
Galina Mihaleva
Dawn Mostow, Ben Gould (two finalist designers in a design team)
Dawn Mostow, Snow Winters (two finalist designers in a design team)
Marjorie Taylor
Laura Thapthimkuna, Stephen Ions, Patrick Delorey (three finalist designers in a design team)
David Walker
Weixue Zhang

WOW Key Dates:

6-8 July First judging weekend
20 July Finalist Designers announced
27 September Opening night
28 September Awards night
14 October Closing night

Tickets on sale now at www.worldofwearableart.com

ENDS

For more information contact:

Sophie Speer, Sputnik, sophie@sputnik.co.nz, 04 801 9485, 027 892 6938
Bridget Acton, Sputnik, bridget@sputnik.co.nz, 04 801 9485, 027 332 9102