

## Media release

### World of WearableArt™ Awards finalists announced

One hundred and forty seven designers from 17 countries have been announced as finalist designers for this year's World of WearableArt (WOW) Awards Show.

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.

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 McSporran  
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 (has a finalist entry in his own right)

Mike Ward, Jonty Ward (two finalist designers in a design team)

**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](http://www.worldofwearableart.com)

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