



(Toronto) - The 30th Anniversary OAAG Awards were presented Tuesday, October 23, 2007 in a one-hour ceremony at the Art Gallery of York University, 4700 Keele Street, in Toronto, Ontario. This year's ceremony recognized 18 Ontario public art galleries with 21 juried Awards of Merit for outstanding achievement in eight areas of public art gallery activity: Exhibition of the Year, Exhibition Design and Installation, Curatorial Writing, Design, Education, Community Partnerships, Volunteer and Colleague of the Year.

2007 OAAG Awards Highlights

Awards were presented to public art galleries in Hamilton, London, Kingston, Mississauga, Oakville, Oshawa, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Sudbury, and Toronto.

This year's juries recognized major contemporary art exhibitions by the **Art Gallery of Hamilton**, the **Ydessa Hendeles Art Foundation** and the **Art Gallery of York University**.

Acclaimed filmmaker John Greyson, winner of the 2007 Bell Award in Video Art, presented the Exhibition of the Year Award to the **Art Gallery of Hamilton** for the major thematic exhibition **sublime embrace-experiencing consciousness in contemporary art** (Shirley Madill, Curator).

This international, multi-disciplinary exhibition brought together artists who have assimilated strategies of sensation into their work - reminders of feeling, seeing, perceiving and knowing. The Jury recognized the exhibition for its "creative and innovative orchestration of art works, generating new experiential contexts." Artists in the exhibition included Miroslaw Balka, Tania Bruguera, Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller, James Casebere, David Hoffos, Anish Kapoor, Mark Karasick, Annika Larsson, Robert Longo, Katarina Matiassek, Ernesto Neto, Tony Oursler, David Rokeby, Barbara Steinman, and Bill Viola.

The exhibition **PREDATORS & PREY** (Ydessa Hendeles Art Foundation, Ydessa Hendeles, Curator), cited by the Jury for an award of Special Recognition, was recognized as "brilliant and authoritative."

The **Art Gallery of York University** (AGYU), Toronto, was distinguished with the third major Exhibition Award,

Special Merit in Exhibition Design and Installation, for **TRY & BE GRATEFUL** (Philip Monk, Curator; Matthew Brannon, Artist; Stephen Kelley, Matthew Brannon, Philip Monk, Emelie Chhangur, Exhibition Designers). The exhibition, the first solo retrospective of New York artist Matthew Brannon's prints, was praised for its "ingenious and elegant design solution, integral to the artist's work."

Toronto artist **Ken Ogawa** was recognized with a **Design Award** for the Winter 2007 edition of AGYU's gallery newsletter. Philip Monk received the Award on the designer's behalf. In keeping with the AGYU's out there vision, by which every function of the institution is treated as an intellectual endeavour and artist project, this dynamic gallery publication was designed as a political broad sheet, masquerading as the front page of a newspaper. It appeared wild-posted across the streets of Toronto in January 2007.

Oakville Galleries was cited in four OAAG Awards this year. **Kathie Spence**, current President of the Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts, presented educators **Shannon Anderson**, **Catherine Sicot**, **Tony Hewer**, and **Denise Frimer** with the 2007 Educator Award for *Addressing Oakville / Oakville Addresses....*

This year Toronto's **Underline Studio** was the recipient of Design Awards for three different publishing projects with galleries across the province in the same production year. Nelda Rodger, founding editor of Azure Magazine, also presented 2007 Design Awards for excellence in book and gallery publication design to **Barr Gilmore** (Toronto), **Patrick Côté** (Ottawa), **Jay Wilson**, **WALNUT** (Toronto), **Fiona Banner** and **Eleanor Brown** (London UK), **Lisa Kiss**, **Lisa Kiss Design** (Toronto) and **Mark Timmings**, **Timmings and Debay** (Vancouver).

Aeroplan was presented with this year's OAAG Partner Award by the Art Gallery of Ontario in recognition of support for the exhibition Alfred Eisenstaedt. In conjunction with the exhibition, the Art Gallery of Ontario and Aeroplan launched The Grange Prize, the largest award of its kind in Canada. The Grange Prize, named in honour of the AGO's historic home, is an annual award recognizing the work of Canadian and international contemporary photographers. The first recipient of The Grange Prize will be announced in spring 2008. The winner of the \$50,000 annual prize will be selected from among five Canadian and international artists each year. Representing **Aeroplan** at the OAAG ceremony was **Alden Hadwen**, Aeroplan Manager of Community Investment and Liaison to the Grange Prize for Contemporary Photography in Partnership with the AGO.

Contemporary visual art curator **Suzanne Carte-Blanchenot**, representing her own alter ego Boozy Suzy, World Title Belt Champion of The Pillow Fight League, was in attendance to present the first OAAG Visual Art Book Award for the book **Garry Neill Kennedy: Superstar Shadow (1984-2005)**. This important monograph, co-published by five collaborating galleries led by Museum London, examines 15 of Gary Neill Kennedy's Superstar Shadow-inspired exhibitions over the past twenty years.

Maverick theatre producer **Moynan King**, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, presented three distinguished Canadian curators with 2007 Curatorial Writing Awards and cash prizes of \$1000 each. Kingston curator **Dorothy M. Farr** was the recipient of the writing award for Book by a Single Author for her book *'An Artist after All': Daniel Fowler in Canada*, published by **Agnes Etherington Art Centre** in 2006. The jury praised her work as "important scholarly research on a little-known Canadian artist that situates the artist's work in a rich fabric of biography, history and society." Curators **Séamus Kealy** and **Jeanne Randolph** were also recognized for Long and Short Essay respectively.

Catherine Harrison received the **2007 Volunteer of the Year Award** for her extraordinary voluntary contributions over 40 years to the Tom Thomson Art Gallery in Owen Sound. Gallery director **Stuart Reid** received the Award on her behalf.

Paddy Gunn O'Brien was presented with the first Colleague Award by Oakville Galleries curator **Marnie Fleming** in recognition of career service to Museum London and other Ontario art galleries.

Produced by OAAG and hosted by AGYU, this year's ceremony was coordinated by artist **Pamila Matharu**. The celebration opened with the first Canadian high definition screening of artist Luis Jacob's 2007 film **A Dance for Those of Us Whose Hearts Have Turned to Ice, Based on Choreography of Françoise Sullivan and the Sculpture of Barbara Hepworth**, courtesy of the artist and Birch Libralato. This version of the art work, related to a piece exhibited in Documenta 12, the illustrious international art event held in Germany this summer, featured noted Toronto artist **Keith Cole** performing a 7-minute dance outdoors in a snowy landscape. **Keith Cole** was in attendance at the OAAG Awards. Upon entering and exiting the Price Family Cinema guests heard artist **Paul Collin's** 2006-2007 musical adaptation of one of the major award-winning curatorial essays, *Along the Lakeshore: an incantation for John & Paul* by the "autonomous intellect, Dr. Jeanne Randolph".

The OAAG Awards are annual highly-regarded visual art awards that can be seen prominently displayed in recipient public art galleries all across the province. The 2007 award-winning books will be on display at **Pages Books & Magazines** on Queen Street in Toronto for two weeks.

The **2007 OAG Awards Jurors** included visual artists **June Clark, Bonnie Devine, Sarindar Dhaliwal, Robert Fones, Yam Lau** and **Fiona Smyth**, web designer **Michel Blondeau**, graphic designer Lewis Nicholson, and public art gallery professionals **Mary-Ellen Heiman** and **Jennifer Rudder**.

2007 OAG Awards Contributors

Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Akimbo, Art Dealers Association of Canada, Art Gallery of York University, Astra Florists Ltd., The Beaver Café, Birch Libralato, Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art, Curry's Art Store, Cut and Paste, David Mirvish Books, Dominique Denis, The Drake Hotel, The Gladstone Hotel, The Globe and Mail, ITC York University, Japanese Paper Place, Dave Kemp, Lisa Kiss Design, Magenta Foundation, Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, PPG Canada, Pages Books & Magazines, Peppers Press, The Power Plant, Schulich School of Business, SLATE, Nicolas White/Sonic Print, The Textile Museum of Canada, Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Visual Arts Ontario, Ydessa Hendeles Art Foundation, Elda Andre-Roy, Sonia Briglio, Emelie Chhangur, Demetra Christakos, Paul Collins, Mela Constantinidi, Raul Edelhauser and his technical team, Nicola Ferrao, Marilyn Fernandes, Marc Glassman, Shay Gibson, Christine Gross, Kate Hunter, Luis Jacob, Arlene Kennedy, Dale and Pamela Krueger, Greg King, Pamila Matharu, Brian Meehan, Michael Maranda, Philip Monk, Sarah Nasby, Karen Pellegrino, Stuart Reid, Jay Richardson, David G. Taylor, Liz Wylie, Joyce Zemans

The **Ontario Association of Art Galleries** (www.oaag.org) is a charitable organization that serves and represents Ontario's dynamic public art galleries as valued and essential centres of art and learning. The OAG Awards (www.oaag.org/awards) are annual province-wide juried awards that recognize excellence and achievement in exhibitions, curatorial writing, education programs and community partnerships in Ontario's public art galleries. The Ontario Association of Art Galleries is supported by its members, the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council and Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada.

2007 OAG Awards

EXHIBITION AWARD / PRIX DE L'EXPOSITION

sublime embrace - experiencing consciousness in contemporary art

Art Gallery of Hamilton

Shirley Madill Curator / Conservatrice

Artists / Artistes

Miroslaw Balka, Tania Bruguera, Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller, James Casebere, David Hoffos, Anish Kapoor, Mark Karasick, Annika Larsson, Robert Longo, Katarina Matiasek, Ernesto Neto, Tony Oursler, David Rokeby, Barbara Steinman, Bill Viola

SPECIAL RECOGNITION / RECONNAISSANCE SPÉCIALE

PREDATORS & PREY

Ydessa Hendeles Art Foundation

Ydessa Hendeles Curator / Conservatrice

Artists / Artistes

Boris Ignatovich, André Kertész, Jeff Wall, Weegee, Gucci, historical photographs & antique collectibles

EXHIBITION DESIGN AND INSTALLATION AWARD /

PRIX DU DESIGN ET DE L'INSTALLATION D'EXPOSITION

TRY & BE GRATEFUL

Art Gallery of York University

Philip Monk Curator / Conservateur

Matthew Brannon Artist / Artiste

Exhibition Designers / Concepteurs de l'exposition

Stephen Kelley, Matthew Brannon, Philip Monk, Emelie Chhangur

Gallery Team / Équipe chargée de l'installation à la galerie

James Crane, Shay Gibson, Colin Harry, Jonathan Sasaki

VISUAL ART BOOK AWARD / PRIX DU LIVRE D'ARTS VISUELS

Garry Neill Kennedy: Superstar Shadow (1984-2005)

Published by Museum London / Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art / National Gallery of Canada / Art Gallery of Nova Scotia / Owens Art Gallery, 2006

Exhibition/ Exposition Garry Neill Kennedy: AN EYE FOR AN EYE

Editor / Éditeur Paddy Gunn O'Brien

Artist / Artiste Garry Neill Kennedy

Writers / Écrivains Diana Nemiroff, Jeffrey Spalding, Stephen Home, Roald Nasgaard, Robin Metcalfe, Jen Budney,

Roger Bywater and John Goodwin, Martin Barlosky, Sherri Irvin, Gemey Kelly, Susie Major, Lelah Ferguson, Melanie Townsend, Ray Cronin, Peter Dykhuis

CURATORIAL WRITING AWARDS / PRIX DES TEXTES DE CONSERVATION

BOOK / LIVRE

Dorothy M. Farr

'An Artist after All' : Daniel Fowler in Canada
Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Kingston, 2006

ESSAY Long / Long ESSAI

Séamus Kealy

Ten Texts for 18:Beckett
18:Beckett
Blackwood Gallery, University of Toronto at Mississauga, 2006

ESSAY Short / Court ESSAI

Jeanne Randolph

Along the Lakeshore: an incantation for John & Paul
Og2 3.5
Oakville Galleries, 2006

PARTNER AWARD / PRIX DU PARTENARIAT

Aeroplan

Alfred Eisenstaedt / The Grange Prize
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, 2006-2007

EDUCATOR AWARD / PRIX DE L'ÉDUCATEUR

Shannon Anderson, Catherine Sicot, Tony Hewer, Denise Frimer

Addressing Oakville / Oakville Addresses....
Oakville Galleries, 2006-2007

VOLUNTEER AWARD / PRIX DU BÉNÉVOLAT

Catherine Harrison

Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Owen Sound

COLLEAGUE AWARD / PRIX DU COLLÈGUE

Paddy O'Brien

Oakville Galleries / Museum London / Art Gallery of Windsor

DESIGN AWARDS / PRIX DU DESIGN

BOOKS / LIVRES

Barr Gilmore

John Hartman: Cities
Tom Thomson Art Gallery / Scotiabank, 2007

Patrick Côté

New Readings in Female Anatomy: Pam Hall
Carleton University Art Gallery / The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery, 2006

Underline Studio

Arnaud Maggs Nomenclature
The Robert McLaughlin Gallery / McMaster Museum of Art, 2006

Jay Wilson, WALNUT

Telling Stories, Secret Lives
Agnes Etherington Art Centre, 2007

Fiona Banner and Eleanor Brown

The Bastard Word
The Power Plant / The Vanity Press, 2007

MULTIMEDIA / MULTIMÉDIA

Lisa Kiss Design

Neutrinos They Are Very Small
Agnes Etherington Art Centre / Art Gallery of Sudbury - Galerie d'art de Sudbury, 2006

GALLERY PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS DES GALERIES

Mark Timmings, Timmings and Debay

Og2 3.1-4.1

Oakville Galleries, 2006-2007

Ken Ogawa / Vlackie O

AGYU Winter 2007 Newsletter

Art Gallery of York University, 2007

Underline Studio

Brochures

InterAccess Electronic Media Arts Centre, 2006-2007

Underline Studio

Edward Burtynsky

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, 2006

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