

PRESS RELEASE

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JONO VAUGHAN WINS THE 2017 BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Two Special Recognition winners also selected

Artists will be honored at a ceremony and reception on Thursday, November 9; the event is free and open to the public

SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) and the Betty Bowen Committee, chaired by Gary Glant, announced today that Jono Vaughan is the winner of the 2017 Betty Bowen Award. The award comes with an unrestricted cash award of \$15,000. Founded in 1977 to continue the legacy of local arts advocate and supporter Betty Bowen, the annual award honors a Northwest artist for their original, exceptional, and compelling work. Jono Vaughan's current work memorializes transgender individuals whose lives were cut short by violence. She creates handmade garments that are then used in collaborative public performances. Her work will be featured in an installation at the Seattle Art Museum April 21-August 5, 2018.

In addition, Deborah Faye Lawrence won the Special Recognition Award in the amount of \$2,500, and Ko Kirk Yamahira won the Kayla Skinner Special Recognition Award in the amount of \$2,500. Five finalists, including Tannaz Farsi and Klara Glosova, were chosen from a pool of 517 applicants from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to compete for the \$20,000 in awards.

The award ceremony honoring Jono Vaughan, Deborah Faye Lawrence, and Ko Kirk Yamahira will take place on Thursday, November 9 at 6 pm at the Seattle Art Museum. The ceremony and reception are free and open to the public.

2017 BETTY BOWEN AWARD WINNER

Jono Vaughan - Seattle, WA



Jono Vaughan's ongoing series *Project 42* is named for the short life expectancy of transgender individuals in the United States. The project, begun in 2012, aims to raise awareness of a persistent pattern of extreme violence against trans people by commemorating 42 murdered individuals. For each work in the series, the artist designs a garment that begins with an image of a murder location, which is then digitally manipulated to create an abstract textile print. The garment is then worn by a collaborator in performance, as a form of memorialization and celebration of the victim. Vaughan hopes this accessible approach will provide an opportunity for engagement and discussion.

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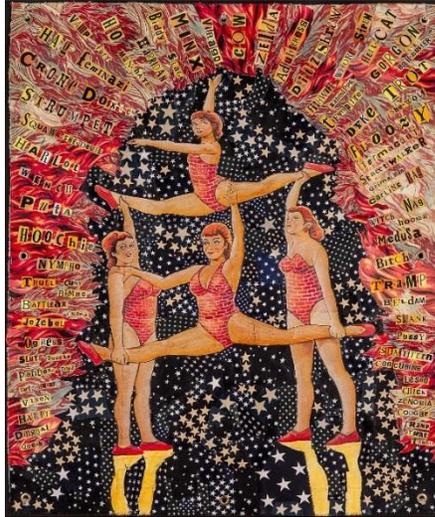
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Vaughan holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York City and a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of South Florida in Tampa. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in both solo and group exhibitions, including the recent exhibitions *MOTHA and Chris E. Vargas Present: Trans Hirstory in 99 Objects* at The Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington and *We the People* at the Minnesota Museum of American Art. Vaughan has received grants for a variety of visual art projects from The Arts Council of Hillsborough County, The National Performance Artist and Visual Artist Network, Art Matters Foundation, and the Pollination Project. She teaches Fine Art at Bellevue College and works in her studio in Seattle, WA.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Deborah Faye Lawrence – Seattle, WA



Deborah Faye Lawrence uses the medium of collage to analyze, categorize, and make meaning. She confronts and comments on social, emotional, historical, and current events through the process of cutting, manipulating, and composing found information. Her appropriation and re-contextualization of found images and other materials, including maps and flags, points to a tradition of politically engaged collage, while satirically and incisively addressing contemporary concerns.

KAYLA SKINNER SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Ko Kirk Yamahira – Seattle, WA



Formally, Ko Kirk Yamahira's work traverses the boundaries between painting and sculpture, composition and decomposition. Interested in notions of self that encompass diverse and contradictory elements, his compositions aim to visually articulate these themes in abstract terms.

2017 BETTY BOWEN COMMITTEE

Gary Glant, Mark Calderon, Amanda Donnan, Mike Hess, Sonal Khullar, Mark Levine, Catharina Manchanda, Llewelyn Pritchard, Greg Robinson, Norie Sato, Maggie Walker, Dan Webb

Honorary Member: Jeffrey Bishop

ABOUT THE BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Betty Bowen (1918–1977) was a Washington native and enthusiastic supporter of Northwest artists. Her friends established the annual Betty Bowen Award as a celebration of her life and to honor and continue her efforts to provide financial support to the artists of the region. Since 1977, SAM has hosted the yearly grant application process by which the selection committee chooses one artist from the Northwest to receive an unrestricted cash award, eligible to visual artists living and working in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Image credits: Jono Vaughan, Documentation of *Project 42* performance by Anna Conner at the Henry Art Gallery, 2016, Commissioned by the Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, Washington, Photograph by Jonathan Vanderweit, Courtesy of the artist, ©Jono Vaughan. Deborah Lawrence, *Eighty Words*, 2014, paper and fabric collage, acrylic, varnish on canvas, 41.25 x 34.5 inches, Courtesy of the artist, ©Deborah Lawrence. Ko Kirk Yamahira, *Untitled*, 2017, acrylic, pencil, unweaved, deconstructed on canvas, 67" x 45.5" x 0", Courtesy of the artist, ©Ko Kirk Yamahira.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum in 1994. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a "museum without walls," free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrate their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.