



Press Release

4 November 2017

Christienne Cuevas Wins 2017 Canadian contemporary portrait competition, THE KINGSTON PRIZE

Shaun Downey and Daniel Hughes Receive Honourable Mentions

PAMA, Brantford, Ontario, November 4, 2018

The independent Jury for The Kingston Prize, Canada's Portrait Competition, Glenn Priestley, an artist and teacher based in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Catharine Mastin, Director of the Art Gallery of Windsor, and Sara Angel, Founder and Executive Director of the Art Canada Institute, today selected Christienne Cuevas of Kitchener, Ontario, as the winner of The Kingston Prize 2017 for the portrait *Portrait of the artist* (graphite, carbon and sumi ink on paper).

Honourable mentions were awarded by the Jury to Shaun Downey of Toronto, Ontario, for *In Toronto* and to Daniel Hughes of Kingston, Ontario for *Sculptor*.

The winner received \$20,000 and the honourable mentions received \$2,000 each. Over \$35,000 in prize money was awarded to the 30 finalists in Canada's biennial national contemporary portrait competition for paintings and drawings, The Kingston Prize, at Peel Art Gallery Museum + Archives (PAMA) on Saturday night at the Gala Opening Night. Themes of youthful anxiety and mature introspection are found in the 30 finalists. Their works are being exhibited at PAMA, in Brampton, Ontario, until January 15, 2018. The Kingston Prize Exhibition 2017-2018 will then open at Artport Gallery, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, on February 1, 2018, where the 30 finalist portraits will be on display until April 22, 2018.

434 Canadian artists entered the 2017 competition. A preview exhibition was held in the Firehall Theatre in Gananoque, Ontario in October. While the exhibition was on there, Senator Patricia Bovey, Director Emerita of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, gave a public lecture on *The Many Faces of Portraits*, which was enthusiastically received, as was her discussion of work taking place to establish a National Portrait Gallery.

At each venue, a People's Choice Award of \$1,000 is made on the basis of a paper ballot. Leslie Watts of Stratford, Ontario, with her portrait, *The Bookseller*, was the winner of the People's Choice Award in Gananoque. Ms. Watts received an honourable mention at The Kingston Prize in 2015. She has also been a finalist for the BP Portrait Prize in London, England. A Student's Choice Award of \$250 was also made on the basis of ballots from students from several area schools participating in educational

programs held in conjunction with the Gananoque exhibition. Keita Morimoto of Mississauga, Ontario was the winner for his portrait *Aristocrats*.

Founded in 2005 by Julian and Kaaren Brown of Kingston, who, inspired by the Archibald Prize for portraiture in Australia, saw the opportunity “to encourage and reward the creation of contemporary portraits by Canadian artists, to provide visibility to Canadian artists through competition, and to develop an historical record of Canadians, by Canadian artists”, The Kingston Prize has been awarded every two years since 2005. The 2015 winner was Jenn Mann of Mississauga, Ontario for her portrait *Self-portrait as a Reflection*.

Held every two years, The Kingston Prize competition is open to contemporary portraits of Canadians by Canadian artists. Portraits must be either paintings or drawings based on a meeting of the artist and subject. The Exhibition Tour of finalists generates a view of the lives of our friends and neighbours in the 21st Century as seen through the eyes of visual artists.

The Kingston Prize receives funding from many sponsors and donors, including the Haynes Connell Foundation, Ontario 150, Britton Smith Foundation, Tri-Art Artist Paints, Dickinson Wright LLP, and numerous individual donors. The Kingston Prize Association, a registered charity and not-for-profit corporation, organizes the competition. For further information, see www.kingstonprize.ca.

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