

CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY EMERGING ARTIST'S PRIZE EXHIBITION  
APRIL 28TH - MAY 7TH, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION AND AWARD CEREMONY  
FRIDAY, MAY 6TH, 2016 AT 6:00 PM  
WINNER ANNOUNCED AT 7:30 PM

The Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver's Emerging Artist's Prize was established in 2011 to encourage and support artists within the first five years of their careers, and is the only one of its kind in Vancouver selected through an open competition. The prize is entirely funded by donations of CASV members and supporters. Previous winners and shortlisted candidates include: Joseph Staples (2014 winner), Nicole Ondre (2012 winner), Derya Akay, Byron Peters, Laura Piasta, Erdem Tasdelen, Scott Billings, Jordy Hamilton, Jeremy Hof, and Natalie Purschwitz.

Our finalists for 2016—Aaron Moran, Annie Briard, Monique Motut-Firth, Mona Lisa Ali Alzghoul and Debbie Westergaard—were selected by a distinguished jury of art professionals. The CASV would like to thank: Dr. Randy Lee Cutler (artist, educator + writer); Fiona Ackerman (painter); Darrin Martens (chief curator, Audain Art Museum); Gordon Duggan (curator/director, New Media Gallery), and Rachel Rosenfield Lafo (director, Richmond Art Gallery) who formed this esteemed jury and reviewed the submissions.

A not-for-profit membership-based organization, The CASV was founded in 1977 and focuses on promoting an appreciation and understanding of Contemporary Art. Members enjoy studio visits, art trips, collection visits and lectures by prominent artists, critics, collectors, designers, architects and fine art professionals. For questions please contact [info@casv.ca](mailto:info@casv.ca).

Based in Metro Vancouver, **AARON MORAN** is a visual artist whose practice incorporates sculpture, installation, photography and print. Reactivating discarded materials and forgotten spaces, Moran provides an aesthetic experience rooted in colour, composition, and materiality. Interested in the circumstances surrounding sites of abandonment, development, and transition in both urban and (sub)urban environments, the work relies on reclaimed materials to evoke an inherent nostalgic quality that is often present (and embraced). A graduate from Emily Carr University of Art + Design (BFA), and from the University of Windsor (MFA), Moran has exhibited many sculptures and site specific projects across Canada and the United States, most recently completing projects for Kit + Ace, Zara, Sperry Top-Sider, and Scotiabank Nuit Blanche.

**ANNIE BRIARD** is a Vancouver-based artist from Montreal challenging visual perception and its ideologies through lens based and moving image focused work. By using these notions as starting points Briard explores how visual perception shapes interpretation of the surrounding world. By complicating the seen, the work creates viewing experiences that investigate each layer of perception. Conducted through video, immersive installation, sculpture, photography, and interactivity, experimental surfaces arise that become imbued with the viewer's own vision. The limits between subjective, ideal and physical visions become blurred issuing the question: How does what I see compare to what you see? Since completing her studies in 2013, Briard's work has been exhibited in solo shows across Canada including at VIVO, Black & Yellow and Back Gallery Project, Centre 3 (Hamilton), and Joyce Yahouda Gallery (Montreal). Her work has also been part of group exhibitions, art fairs, festivals and screenings internationally including Filmambiente in Rio de Janeiro, Miami Project, and a video programme curated by Esse in Paris. Recent projects include a public art billboard for Capture Photography Festival, a

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residency at the Banff Centre and the 2-person curatorial + creation collaborative Lucida Lab. Annie Briard is currently preparing solo shows for Winnipeg and Montreal as well as an artist residency in Spain. She holds a Master's from Emily Carr University, and a BFA from Concordia University.

**MONIQUE MOTUT-FIRTH** is a visual artist and writer living and teaching in Vancouver. Born into a distinctly mixed cultural heritage of French Roman Catholic and Russian Doukhobor, she developed a sense of critical curiosity surrounding pop-culture's influence on cultural identity. Her work uses common imagery in critical re-figurations, the everyday transformed into new structures driven by a central question: How is identity and social space navigated within a consumer culture saturated by images? Her scrap-systems link, layer, and weave together disparate image cultures, eras, and signifiers exploring the use of collage and photomontage as critical strategies, rooted in the tradition of the Berlin Dada artists. Monique Motut-Firth is a graduate of the Master's of Applied Arts program at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design (2015). She received her BFA in Fine Arts from ECUAD (2010), and a BA in Psychology from UBC (2003).

**MONA LISA ALI ALZGHOUL** is an Arab-American artist currently residing between Canada and Amman, Jordan. Drawing on notions of exile and estrangement Alzghoul's work focuses on issues of displacement, identity, nation-belonging, collective memory, land, and the body. Working in a variety of media including sculpture, video, and CGI she experiments with narratives and navigates voids in rooted in personal and collective identity. Negotiated in widely different mediums these explorations explore what it means to be caught between two places. Alzghoul began her education in arts in 2009 at Portland State University and completed her Bachelor of Media Arts at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in 2014. Her films have been screened in numerous international film festivals most recently including the Karama Human Rights Film Festival in Gaza, Palestine and The AVIFF Cannes Art Film Festival in Cannes, France.

Using source material that is data driven or gathered from mass media, **DEBBIE WESTERGAARD TUEPAH**'s work considers the conceptual notion and embodied experience of information in relation to contemporary issues and events. While her interest in information is rooted in her experience with marketing the conduits for her work rely predominantly on paint, found and readymade objects. Operating in 3-dimensional space Tuepah's work creates networks and 'data-bytes' of material which stand in for systems, modes of measurement, or visceral realities. Debbie Westergaard Tuepah received a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design in 2011, where she was awarded the John C. Kerr Chancellor's Award. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally, in galleries such as Vancouver Art Gallery's Family Fuse, Surrey Art Gallery, Bellevue Washington's Sculpture Biennial, and Ontario's DNA Artspace.



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The Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver is grateful to the generous donors who helped fund the 2016 Emerging Artist's Prize and to Opus Art Supplies for their donation of Opus gift certificates.

Access Gallery is a platform committed to emergent and experimental art practices. We enable critical conversations and risk taking through new configurations of audience, artists and community.



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