

## BACKGROUND: TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### The 2019 Recipients:

#### ARTS FOR YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT

##### Blank Canvas

Blank Canvas is an art collective that continues to build a vibrant art community that drives culture forward and creates platforms for marginalized artists through events, panels, workshops and content creation. Blank Canvas seeks to reimagine spaces that allow emerging artists to explore their intersectional identities, where the ability to share narratives and raise awareness of culturally critical issues facing our communities is fostered. Using varying forms of artistic and cultural expression, Blank Canvas focuses on what's best for the community, spreading positive energy, showcasing new artists, taking up space unapologetically and being a cultural conduit for creatives.

Kathleen Sharpe  
Chair

Richard Paquet  
Vice Chair

Susan Crocker, C.M.  
Past Chair

Claire Hopkinson, M.S.M.  
Director & CEO

##### Board of Directors

Andrew Walker, Secretary  
Michael Herrera, CPA, CA,  
Treasurer

Nova Bhattacharya

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Dilshad Hassen

Hasan Makansi

John D. McKellar, C.M., Q.C.

Terry Nicholson

Caroline Robbie, ARIDO

##### Director Emeritus

Diana Bennett

##### Arts Advisory Panel

Margaret Atwood, C.C.

Atom Egoyan, O.C.

Norman Jewison, C.C.

Molly Johnson, O.C.

David Mirvish, C.M.

Joyce Zemans, C.M.

The Arts for Youth Award was established in 2007 by Martha Burns, Jim Fleck and Sandra and Jim Pitblado. The award celebrates an individual, collective or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to engaging Toronto's youth through the arts and artistic creation. The winner of the award will receive a \$20,000 cash prize, with each finalist receiving \$2,000. The finalist awards are supported by a generous donation from Diana Bennett and Spencer Lanthier.

2019 finalists: JAYU, Paprika Festival

#### EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

##### Joshua Vettivelu

Joshua Vettivelu is an artist, programmer, and educator working within sculpture, video, installation and performance. Their works explore how larger frameworks of power manifest within intimate relationships. Recently their practice examines the tensions that emerge when personal experiences are mined for art production, and how this allows institutions to posture and position themselves as self-reflexive. Currently, Vettivelu teaches in the faculty of Art and Continuing Education at OCADU and is the previous Director of Programming of Whippersnapper Gallery.

The Emerging Artist Award is a \$10,000 cash prize, with finalists receiving \$2,000. The award celebrates the accomplishments and future potential of an emerging Toronto artist working in any discipline. Established in 2006, the award is generously sponsored by Susan Crocker and John Hunkin to support the development or completion of new work. The award given to finalist honourees was established in 2014 through the generous donation of the Bulmash-Siegel Fund.

2019 finalists: Brittany Exmiranda Maru, Susanna Fournier

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Charitable Registration:  
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## **MARGO BINDHARDT AND RITA DAVIES CULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

### **Nina Lee Aquino**

Nina Lee Aquino is a leading Filipina-Canadian director and dramaturge based in Toronto. She was founding Artistic Director of fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre, Artistic Director of Cahoots, and is currently Artistic Director of Factory Theatre. She is recipient of the Ken McDougall Award (2004), the Canada Council John Hirsch Prize (2008), and two Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Direction.

2019 finalists: Emelie Chhangur, Emma Cooper

## **MURIEL SHERRIN AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC**

### **Eve Egoyan**

Eve Egoyan is an internationally acclaimed concert pianist based in Toronto. She has released a dozen discs and toured worldwide. Eve's curiosity compels her to reinvent the piano for herself and her audiences, to curate exceptional programmes, and to commission new works by like-minded artists and composers.

A \$10,000 cash prize. The award, created to honour Muriel Sherrin, founding producer of the 1984 Toronto International Festival, is presented to an artist or creator who has made a contribution to the cultural life of Toronto through outstanding achievement. The recipient will also have participated in international initiatives, including touring, studying abroad, and participating in artist exchanges. The recipient of the award receives a complimentary week-long stay at Valleyview Artist Retreat.

2019 finalists: Robert Aitken, C.M., Vineet Vyas

## **TORONTO ARTS AND BUSINESS AWARD**

### **Gladstone Hotel**

Built in 1889, the Gladstone Hotel is Toronto's oldest continually operating hotel, proudly upholding the highest standards in environmental sustainability, social responsibility and community-building through the arts. Known for sustainable hospitality with street cred, it's a home for travellers and locals alike to participate in and influence culture.

Every year at the Mayor's Arts Lunch, a local business that has made an important contribution to the arts in Toronto, through innovative and transformational partnerships, is recognized with the Toronto Arts & Business Award. Winners range from national financial institutions and real estate development to small design firms and local businesses. Presented in partnership with Toronto Arts Foundation, Business/Arts, and the Toronto Star, this award was established in 2006.

## **APPOINTMENT OF JURORS**

Each year, a jury of up to 10 members reviews candidate profiles and makes finalist and recipient recommendations for each award, excepting the Toronto Arts and Business Award, to Toronto Arts Foundation's Board of Directors, which approves final determinations. Jury members must have recognized expertise, prestige, credibility and experience, along with a sense of history and perspective. Each jury is comprised of participants who are practitioners of the arts, organizers, programmers, producers, curators, critics, commentators and lay specialists.

The 2019 jurors were: **Lawrence Cherney**, founding Artistic Director of Soundstreams; **Jason De Mata**, Operations Director at RISE Edutainment and Mentorship and Programs Manager at VIBE Arts; **Kumali Giles**, multidisciplinary artist and co-director of *the AMY Project*; **Clayton Lee**, performance artist, curator, producer, and Festival Director of the Rhubarb Festival; **Julia Paoli**, Director of Exhibitions and Programs at Mercer Union; and **Devyani Saltzman**, Director of Public Programming at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The Toronto Arts and Business Awards are assessed by a separate jury. The 2019 jurors were: **Leen Al Zaibak**, TAF Emerging Leaders Committee Chair and Senior Policy Advisor for the Government of Ontario; **Nichole Anderson Bergeron**, President & CEO, Business/Arts; **Maxine Bailey**, producer, writer, arts manager and former Vice-President of Advancement for TIFF; **Laura deCarufel**, Editor-in-Chief, *The Kit*; **Jodi Isenberg**, Senior Editor, Life and Entertainment, *Toronto Star*; **Jane Perdue**, Public Art Coordinator, City of Toronto; and **Terry Nicholson**, Board Member, Toronto Arts Foundation.

Toronto Arts Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its supporters, who have provided over 2,000 complimentary tickets to the Mayor's Arts Lunch over the last 14 years to artists, arts organizations and arts volunteers on a rotating basis, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the creative vitality of Toronto. (For a full list of the 2019 Mayor's Arts Lunch sponsors, click [here](#).)