

THE HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION HNATYSHYN

*For immediate release*

## **Anne Macmillan awarded inaugural Emerging Atlantic Artist Residency at The Banff Centre**

OTTAWA/BANFF, 9 March 2016 – The Hnatyshyn Foundation is pleased to announce that Nova Scotia visual artist Anne Macmillan has been chosen to carry out the inaugural Emerging Atlantic Canada Artist Residency. Thanks to the generous support of the Harrison McCain Foundation, Macmillan will benefit from access to cutting-edge visual and digital art facilities, a community of artistic peers, and talks by leading artists, faculty, and curators during an eight-week, self-directed residency at The Banff Centre, followed by the opportunity to travel in Canada to speak about her experience and project.

*“I am truly honoured to be selected for the Emerging Atlantic Artist Residency at the Banff Centre. I am ready to fully immerse myself in the creation of new work, while I reflect upon a geography so different from what I experienced growing up in Nova Scotia.*

*This residency provides support for me at a crucial point in my art career as a new graduate, I look forward to the focused contact with other artists, and the excellent facilities that Banff has to offer. Here I am supported to use art as a means to process and understand my surrounding environment, as both a reflection of the world, and a projection of myself. Thank you so much, I am driven to make the most of this incredible opportunity,”* says Macmillan.

Macmillan was chosen by a national jury consisting of **Jen Mizuik**, director of Visual + Digital Arts at The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta; **Jeffrey Spalding**, senior curator at Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, New Brunswick; **Sarah Fillmore**, chief curator of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia; and, East Coast visual artists **Eleanor King** and **Stefan St-Laurent**.

*“Anne Macmillan is an excellent inaugural winner of this award; we look forward to the outcome of her project. I will add that personally, I could have also endorsed any number of the 57 fine applicants. It was a delight to review the rich array of talent comprising artists resident throughout every area of the Atlantic provinces and embracing nearly every conceivable artistic media,”* said **Spalding**.

Interested in how geographies relate to mental states, and reflect modes of consciousness, Macmillan’s work is inspired by research into the historical perception of mountains and the depths of caves. During the residency, Macmillan will make a series of digital animated videos inspired by the geographical relationship of mountains and caverns in the Banff region.

*“There has been a groundswell of support from the artistic community for this award, and I was impressed with the diversity in practice, materiality, and experience that we saw from the applicants. It’s been a privilege to be part of conceiving and starting this award; I think it’s important to show our support of emerging artists and provide more access to artists from Atlantic Canada,”* said **Mizuik**.

Valued at \$30,000 each year (with a commitment for three years), the Emerging Atlantic Canada Artist Residency is the result of an agreement between The Banff Centre, The Hnatyshyn Foundation, and the Harrison McCain Foundation. The program is intended to help strengthen cultural connections between eastern and western Canada by giving exceptionally talented, emerging Canadian artists the support and mentorship needed to excel in their careers.

*“On behalf of all the Directors of the foundation, I would like to express our delight in being part of this exciting initiative in support of the wealth of artistic talent in Atlantic Canada,”* said **Ann Evans**, chairperson, Harrison McCain Foundation.

For more information about the residency, visit [banffcentre.ca/visual-digital-arts](http://banffcentre.ca/visual-digital-arts)

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#### **About Anne Macmillan:**

Anne Macmillan is a Canadian artist from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Anne has received a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue her studies in the graduate program of Art, Culture and Technology at MIT, and she is the 2014 first place winner of the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts. Her practice has been supported by grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Nova Scotia Council on Communities, Culture and Heritage, and the Council for Arts at MIT.

#### **About The Hnatyshyn Foundation**

Established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada’s twenty-fourth Governor General, the Hnatyshyn Foundation is dedicated to promoting and funding emerging, developing, and mid-career artists and curators in Canada through scholarships and prizes totalling over \$180,000 annually. Its programs are funded by contributions from the Department of Canadian Heritage, foundations, corporations and individuals. [www.rjhf.com](http://www.rjhf.com)

#### **About the Harrison McCain Foundation**

The mission of the Harrison McCain Foundation is to honour the wishes of its founder and benefactor, Harrison McCain, CC, ONB, by giving charitable financial support to primarily Atlantic Canadian post-secondary educational institutions through scholarships and bursaries, and to community organizations, the Arts, Culture, Health and Sciences.

**About The Banff Centre**

The Banff Centre's mission is inspiring creativity. Thousands of artists, leaders, and researchers from across Canada and around the world participate in programs at The Banff Centre every year. Through its multidisciplinary programming, The Banff Centre provides them with the support they need to create, to develop solutions, and to make the impossible possible.

[www.banffcentre.ca](http://www.banffcentre.ca)