



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release.

JOHN HAMPTON and JENNIFER AITKEN selected to receive \$10,000 AWARDS in contemporary visual art given by The Hnatyshyn Foundation and TD Bank Group

TORONTO, 8 MAY 2017 – The Hnatyshyn Foundation and TD Bank Group announced today that John Hampton (curator) and Jennifer Aitken (visual artist) are the recipients of the 2016 Hnatyshyn Foundation – TD Bank Group awards in contemporary visual art. The awards are presented to a Canadian curator and an emerging visual artist, under the age of 35, whose body of work has achieved a public presence and peer recognition. The recipients of the awards will each receive a \$10,000 prize to contribute to their professional development.

John Hampton is the recipient of the curatorial award. He is the Executive Director of the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, an Adjunct Curator at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, and holds an MVS in Curatorial Studies from the University of Toronto. He is Chickasaw/Canadian, living in Treaty 2 territory, Brandon, Manitoba. In Hampton’s words

“I curate exhibitions because of their potential to create experiences that enrich communities, minds, and lives by making complexity accessible.”

Jennifer Aitken is the recipient of the award for visual artist. Aitken’s sculptures center around the built environment but they are persistently ambiguous. Aitken is based in Toronto and holds an MFA from the University of Guelph and a BFA from Emily Carr University. Recent solo exhibitions include Kaloune at YYZ Artists’ Outlet and Numa at Battat Contemporary.

“My core drive as an artist is to encourage intuitive intelligence. I aim to subvert language and interpretation in order to emphasize direct experience,” says Aitken.

The award winners were selected by a jury of arts professionals, including Robyn McCallum, Curator, TD Bank Group, Kim Nguyen, recipient of the 2015 curatorial award and Curator/Head of Programs at the CCA Wattis Institute, and Brandy Dahrouge, Program Manager of Creative Residencies at the Banff Centre.

“At TD, we believe that a thriving arts ecosystem is essential to the overall health and vibrancy of our communities. TD is thrilled to support such an important initiative through the Hnatyshyn Foundation, said Robyn McCallum, TD Bank Group.

Established in 2013, The Hnatyshyn Foundation - TD Bank Group Award for Emerging Curator of Contemporary Canadian Art was created to support exceptional emerging curators of contemporary Canadian art. In 2016, the program was renewed and expanded to include an emerging visual artist. Each year through 2018, one emerging curator and one emerging visual artist will each receive the \$10,000 prize. The recipients may use the award toward the development of their curatorial or artistic practice at their own discretion.

“We are grateful to TD Bank Group for its leadership and commitment to helping fuel the development of Canadian talent. Their support provides young curators and artists with essential resources at key moments in their careers.” said Kim Lymburner, Executive Director of The Hnatyshyn Foundation.

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About TD Community Giving

TD Bank Group invests in communities in order to affect positive change in the places where it operates and where its customers and employees live and work. In 2014, TD donated more than \$102 million to community organizations in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. In Canada, TD focuses on education and financial literacy, creating opportunities for young people and the environment. For further information, please visit www.td.com/corporate-responsibility.

About The Hnatyshyn Foundation

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada’s twenty-fourth Governor General, to assist emerging and established artists in all disciplines with their education and professional development, and promote to the Canadian public the importance of the arts in our society. Since 2005, the Foundation has awarded over \$1.4 million to emerging and mid-career visual artists, curators and performing artists in Canada. Its programs are funded by contributions from governments, including the Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage, foundations, corporations and individuals. Information about the programs of The Hnatyshyn Foundation is available on the Foundation’s website www.rjhf.com.

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