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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Hnatyshyn Foundation Announces $55,000 in Awards
for Canadian Visual Artists and Curators**

**Ottawa, September 1, 2020** — Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, today announced this year's recipients of the Foundation's visual arts awards.

The $25,000 Visual Arts Award, presented for outstanding achievement by a Canadian mid-career artist, was given to **Marianne Nicolson**. The winner of the $15,000 Award for Curatorial Excellence in contemporary art is **Emelie Chhangur**. In addition, three $5,000 William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes for Emerging Artists were awarded to **Jude Abu Zaineh**, **Marlon Kroll**, and **Sam Bourgault**.

*"The Hnatyshyn Foundation applauds these talented artists," said Mrs. Hnatyshyn, "and is grateful to donors William and Meredith Saunderson, in particular, for making the emerging artist awards possible. It is with their generous support that we are able to continue our mission of enriching the legacy of art in this country for the benefit of all Canadians."*

All winners were selected by panels of art experts. The Hnatyshyn Foundation sincerely thanks the jurors listed below for their generous assistance.

<u>**Visual Arts Award**</u>
- **Jan Allen** (Kingston, ON) — Director/Curator, Agnes Etherington Art Gallery, Queens University *(now retired)*
- **Francisco Alvarez** (Toronto, ON) — Director/Curator, Ontario College of Art and Design University
- **Dana Claxton** (Vancouver, BC) — Artist/Professor, University of British Columbia, and recipient of The Hnatyshyn Foundation's Award for Artistic Excellence in Contemporary Art (2019)
- **Brandy Dharouge** (Banff, AB) — Director of Exhibitions, Banff Centre
- **Maria Hupfield** (Toronto, ON) — Artist, and recipient of The Hnatyshyn Foundation's Award for Artistic Excellence in Contemporary Art (2018)

## Award for Curatorial Excellence
• **Pamela Edmonds** (Hamilton, ON) — Senior Curator, McMaster Museum of Art
• **Dominique Fontaine** (Montreal, QC) — Curator/ Founding Director, aPOSteRIORI
• **Ann MacDonald** (Toronto, ON) — Director/Curator, Doris McCarthy Gallery, and Associate Professor, University of Toronto
• **Chantal Pontbriand** (Montreal, QC) — Independent Curator and art critic

## William and Meredith Saunderson Prizes for Emerging Artists
• **Catherine Bédard** (Paris, France)  — Exhibition Curator/Deputy Director of the Canadian Cultural Centre, Canadian Embassy, Paris, and 2019 recipient of The Hnatyshyn Foundation's Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Art

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General. The Foundation assists emerging and established artists, in all disciplines, with their training and professional development, and promotes the importance of the arts in Canadian society. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations and individuals. Since it began programming in 2005, the Foundation has provided more than $3.6 million in support to Canadian visual artists, performing artists and curators.

For more information about the programs
of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, please contact:

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## About the Laureates

**Marianne Nicolson**

Marianne Nicolson (Dzawada'enux̱w) holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics and Anthropology from the University of Victoria, and is a well-known visual artist. She uses her academic and artistic practice as a platform to advocate for Indigenous linguistic and cultural resurgence.

All of her work is political in nature, and seeks to uphold a traditional Kwakwa̱ka'wakw philosophy and worldview, through contemporary media and technologies. Her work has been presented at the 17th Biennale of Sydney, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the National Museum of the American Indian in New York, Nuit Blanche in Toronto, Museum Arnhem in the Netherlands, and many others. Monumental public works by Nicolson can be seen at Vancouver International Airport, the Canadian Embassy in Paris, and the Canadian Embassy in Amman, Jordan.

**Emelie Chhangur**

Curator, writer, and artist Emelie Chhangur, is the newly appointed Director and Curator of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre in Kingston, Ontario. This appointment follows a vibrant and socially engaged curatorial career at the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU).

At AGYU, Chhangur led reorientation of the gallery as a civic, community-facing, ethical space, driven by social process and intersectional collaboration. She also founded the gallery's residency program, and has received 25 OAAG (Ontario Association of Art Galleries) awards for her contributions in writing, publishing, exhibition-making, and public and educational programming.

Over the past 20 years, Chhangur has emerged as a leading voice for experimental curatorial practice in Canada, and is celebrated nationally and internationally for her process-based, participatory curatorial projects.

**Jude Abu Zaineh**

Jude Abu Zaineh is a Palestinian-Canadian multidisciplinary artist and cultural worker. Her practice relies on the use of art, food, and technology to explore meanings of culture, displacement, diaspora, and belonging. She examines ideals of home and community, while working to develop aesthetics rooted in her childhood and upbringing in the Middle East.

Abu Zaineh was one of the first artists to be selected for a collaborative residency with the Ontario Science Centre and MOCA Toronto. She has presented her work nationally and internationally at venues including Cultivamos Cultura in São

Luis (Portugal), the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology in Lisbon, the Centro de Cultura Digital in Mexico City, and SVA in New York City. Abu Zaineh received an M.F.A. from the University of Windsor (Ontario), and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Electronic Arts at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in upstate New York.

**Marlon Kroll**

Marlon Kroll is a German/Canadian artist living and working in Montreal. He holds a B.F.A. in Ceramics from Concordia University, and is one of nine laureates of the Darling Foundry's 2019–2022 Montreal Studio Program, where his studio is generously sponsored by Ann Birks and Caroline Andrieux.

He has shown his work in solo exhibitions at venues including Clint Roenisch in Toronto, Parisian Laundry in Montreal, and soon.tw in Montreal. Group shows include exhibitions at Interstate Projects in Brooklyn, Galerie Antoine Ertaskiran in Montreal, Central Park in Los Angeles, Galerie René Blouin in Montreal, and 8eleven in Toronto.

In 2020, Kroll will mount a solo show at Andrea Festa Fine Art in Rome, Italy, and his work will be included in a major exhibition at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

**Sam Bourgault**

Sam Bourgault is currently a Ph.D. student in the Media Arts and Technology program at UC Santa Barbara. She has a B.F.A. in Computation Arts from Concordia University and a Bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics from Polytechnique Montréal. Embedding tangible media, code, video, sound and electronics, her practice investigates the ways in which technology affects and shapes our physical and embodied experiences with machines and algorithms.

In Bourgault's work, contrast is used as a process and method to raise critical awareness. Control and submission, reality and simulation, mass events and solitude, instructions and randomness are strategies she uses to convey the unsettling nexus of the real and virtual worlds.

Her work has been exhibited at the IEEE ICRA-X Robotic Art Program in Montreal, the Sight + Sound Festival in Montreal, the Ars Electronica Campus Exhibition in Linz (Austria), and at OFFTA, RIPA, the Mutek Festival, the Art Matters Festival, and the V.A.V. Gallery, all in Montreal.