

PRESS RELEASE

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FINALISTS SELECTED FOR 2015 BETTY BOWEN AWARD

SEATTLE, WA - The Betty Bowen Committee announced the six artists selected as finalists for the 37th Annual Betty Bowen Award. The award honors a Northwest artist for their original, exceptional, and compelling work.

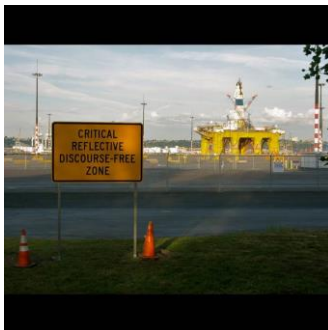
The Betty Bowen Committee reviewed 537 applications from visual artists residing in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. One of this year's finalists will receive a cash prize in the amount of \$15,000 and will have their work displayed at the Seattle Art Museum beginning November 19.

The winner is selected in a two-part jury process. In the first round, the applicants are reviewed anonymously. Over the course of two days, five or six finalists are selected from the pool of applicants. The finalists are then invited to present their work to the committee in person in the second round.

The 2015 winner will be announced in a press release in mid-September. The award will be formally presented in a celebration on November 19, which will also inaugurate the exhibition. The event is free and open to the public.

FINALISTS

JACK DAWS, Vashon, WA



Jack Daws' work satirically asks ponderous questions in order to enlighten the public. Through visually common and memorable works, such as signs in public places, he encourages his audience to reexamine their world.

SUSAN DORY, Seattle



With a wide range of influences, Susan Dory integrates and extracts ideas from nature to the metaphysical, expressing them through dynamic layers of paint. Her palette is rich and varied, enhancing the stacked elements of her work and creating immersive depth on the flat surface of canvas.

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EIRIK JOHNSON, Seattle



Photographer Eirik Johnson's current body of work is *Mushroom Camps*, in which he documents the unique global economy and culture surrounding the Matsutake mushroom. By recording the people and places along the mushroom's journey from Oregon to Japan, Johnson reveals unexpected connections, reflecting current commercial and social issues.

SAMANTHA SCHERER, Shoreline, WA



An ardent lover of crime dramas, Samantha Scherer's work often depicts themes of loss and conflict. From a larger scene of fictional or real events, she isolates enigmatic details and offers a brief look into the testimony of tragedies. Through this, Scherer investigates the line between truth and fiction, how it is shaped and obscured.

LOU WATSON, Portland



Working in a variety of media, Lou Watson discovers a sense of wonder in the mundane. She refashions her regular routine into a concert, a dance, a work of art, adding splendor and excitement to the experience of daily life.

SADIE WECHSLER, Seattle



Sadie Wechsler explores the limits of photography as a medium, creating images that blur the line between the real and the fantastical. By introducing unexpected features such as collage and reflection, she transforms the once flat and steady picture plane. No longer stable, the photograph becomes fluid under her hand as she explores the union of imagination and memory.

THE BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Betty Bowen (1918–1977) was a Washington native and enthusiastic supporter of Northwest artists whose friends established the annual Betty Bowen Award as a celebration of her life and to honor and continue her efforts to provide financial support to the artists of the region. Since 1977, SAM has hosted the yearly grant application process by which the selection committee chooses one artist from the Northwest to receive an unrestricted cash award, eligible to visual artists living and working in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

2015 BETTY BOWEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gary Glant (*Chair*)
Mark Calderon
Luis Croquer
Victoria Haven
Mike Hess
Isaac Layman
Mark Levine

Catharina Manchanda
(*SAM's Jon & Mary
Shirley Curator of
Modern &
Contemporary Art*)
Llewelyn Pritchard
Ralph Pugay
Greg Robinson
Norie Sato

Bill True
Maggie Walker
Tom Wilson
Merrill Wright

Honorary Members:
Jeffrey Bishop
Peggy Golberg
Anne Gould Hauberg

Image credits: Jack Daws, *Critical Reflective Discourse-Free Zone* from *Duwamish Revealed*, 2015, Custom aluminum sign, 48 inches x 72 inches, Courtesy of Duwamish Revealed. Organized by Sarah Kavage and Nicole Kistler, in partnership with ECOSS (The Environmental Coalition of South Seattle) © Jack Daws. Susan Dory, *Neogem*, 2015, Acrylic on canvas over panel, 60 inches x 68 inches x 2 inches, Courtesy of the artist © Susan Dory. Eirik Johnson, *Pallets above Ota Ichiba wholesale produce market, Tokyo*, 2014, Archival pigment print, 47 inches x 57 inches, Courtesy of the artist © Eirik Johnson. Samantha Scherer, *Tumbled Houses (II)*, 2015, Graphite on paper, 8 inches x 8 inches, Courtesy of the artist © Samantha Scherer. Lou Watson, *Billboard Duet (detail)*, 2015, Performance, Courtesy of the artist © Lou Watson. Sadie Wechsler, *Python Hunt 2013*, 2013, Inkjet print, 64 inches x 82 inches, Courtesy of the artist © Sadie Wechsler.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Robert Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and reopened as the Asian Art Museum. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a "museum without walls," free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of more than 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures and time periods.