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**Portland Art Museum Announces the Finalists for
2015 Contemporary Northwest Art Awards**

Today the Portland Art Museum announced the finalists for the 2015 Contemporary Northwest Art Awards, an awards exhibition celebrating contemporary art created in the greater northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana). The exhibition will open at the Museum in the fall of 2015.

The finalists are:

Artist	City	State
Gail Grinnell	Seattle	Washington
Jo Hamilton	Portland	Oregon
Annie Han & Daniel Mihalyo	Seattle	Washington
Victoria Haven	Seattle	Washington
Mary Iverson	Seattle	Washington
David Kroll	Vashon	Washington
Ellen Lesperance	Portland	Oregon
Margie Livingston	Seattle	Washington
Dana Lynn Louis	Portland	Oregon
Susan Moldenhauer	Laramie	Wyoming
Emily Nachison	Portland	Oregon
Ellen Ornitz	Manhattan	Montana
Helen O'Toole	Seattle	Washington
Ryan Pierce	Portland	Oregon
Jennifer Pulchinski	Bozeman	Montana
Wendy Red Star	Portland	Oregon
Vanessa Renwick	Portland	Oregon
Jay Schmidt	Bozeman	Montana
Shelby Shadwell	Laramie	Wyoming

Akio Takamori	Seattle	Washington
Phoebe Toland	Vaughn	Washington
Willem Volkersz	Bozeman	Montana
Samantha Wall	Portland	Oregon
Robert Yoder	Seattle	Washington

The Selection Process

Regional arts professionals, including curators, artists, dealer, artists, academics, and critics, were invited to nominate visual artists based on the quality of their work, innovation, relevance to community or global issues in the arts, continuity of vision, commitment to their practice, and level of development in their career. The Museum received more than 200 nominations and invited the nominated artist to submit application materials. Of the nominated artists, 192 submitted materials for review.

Bonnie Laing-Malcolmson, The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Curator of Northwest Art, and guest curatorial advisor Jessica Hunter Larsen, Curator of Interdisciplinary Experimental Arts, Colorado College, reviewed the nominees' materials and selected the 24 finalists.

Laing-Malcolmson will visit the artists' studios during the next several months. Before the end of this year, she will present her recommendations to the Museum's director and chief curator for the final review and the announcement of the four to seven award recipients. These artists will be featured in the *2015 Contemporary Northwest Art Awards* exhibition opening in October 2015.

"There were exceptional submissions from each of 192 nominated artists, attesting to the strength and conceptual diversity of art in the Northwest region," said Laing-Malcolmson. "Jessica and I spent many hours reviewing the outstanding entries and struggled to create a manageable list of finalists. I look forward to visiting each of the 24 artists in the near future to determine the award winners."

About the Contemporary Northwest Art Awards

The program honors artistic merit and potential while providing an in-depth and scholarly presentation of work by promising contemporary artists living and working in the Northwest. The award recipients are honored with an

exhibition in the Museum's special exhibition galleries, a full-color catalogue, exhibition-related programming, and cash awards. One recipient will be further recognized with the Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the amount of \$10,000. The finalists announced today will also be recognized in the catalogue.

The Contemporary Northwest Art Awards exhibition, organized by the Portland Art Museum, is funded in part by The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Endowments for Northwest Art.

About The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Endowments for Northwest Art

The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Endowments for Northwest Art support the exhibition activities of the Center for Northwest Art, including the APEX series, related publications, the curatorial position, and acquisitions.

From the beginning, the Museum's permanent collection has been shaped by the art and culture of the Northwest. The Schnitzer Center for Northwest Art brings the Museum's regional collections to the forefront and celebrates a history of art making that extends from the late 19th century to the present in the five-state region of the Northwest.

The Center occupies the third and fourth floors of the Museum's Hoffman Wing and presents the collection in rotation as well as APEX, an ongoing exhibition series dedicated to contemporary art of the region.

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[Learn more about the artists](#) featured in the 2013 Contemporary Northwest Art Awards.