

YVR Art Foundation awards \$45,000 in scholarships to First Nations artists

RICHMOND, B.C. (May 3, 2017): YVR Art Foundation (YVRAF) is pleased to announce the nine BC First Nations recipients of the 2017 YVR Art Foundation scholarship awards. The recipients will be recognized at the annual YVRAF awards reception, which will also include the unveiling of the 2016 scholarship recipients' art work at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) on May 26, 2017.

"YVR Art Foundation is proud to recognize this group of First Nations artists who have been selected as our 2017 scholarship recipients," said Susan Jackson, Executive Director, YVR Art Foundation. "These talented individuals represent a new generation of artists who are bringing in fresh and exciting ideas to the art community. We are pleased to support them on their next artistic endeavor and provide an opportunity to pursue their art education."

YVRAF art scholarships are awarded annually to artists of British Columbia and Yukon First Nations ancestry in two categories: Youth (under age 27) and Mid-Career (ages 27 and up). The recipients will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to attend a formal art institution or study with an artist mentor over the course of one year. Mid-Career recipients will work with a master artist, attend an art institution or undertake a special project that is of cultural significance to their community. At the end of their scholarship year, recipients are invited back to Vancouver to display their artwork at the awards reception, followed by an exhibition of their work at YVR for one year.

The recipients of the 2017 YVR Art Foundation Youth Art Scholarships are:

- **Atheana Picha**, age 17, Kwantlen, Delta
- **Austin Harry**, age 24, Squamish, from Vancouver
- **Jamie Nole**, age 24, Tahltan/Nisga'a, from Terrace
- **Joshua Watts**, age 22, Nuu-chah-nulth/Lake Cowichan, from North Vancouver
- **Kelsey Sparrow**, age 22, Musqueam, Vancouver
- **Towustasin Stocker**, age 24, Haida, from Masset
- **Veronica Waechter**, age 21, Gitxsan, from Burnaby

The recipients of the 2017 YVR Art Foundation Mid-Career Artist Scholarships are:

- **Philip Gray**, Ts'msyen (Tsimshian), from West Vancouver
- **Thomas Cannell**, Musqueam, from Vancouver

Since 2005, YVR Art Foundation has awarded over 90 scholarships, grants and awards totaling more than \$400,000 to BC and Yukon First Nations artists.

About the YVR Art Foundation

YVR Art Foundation (YVRAF) is a nonprofit, charitable organization founded in 1993 by Vancouver Airport Authority to support the development and advancement of BC and Yukon First Nations art and artists by providing scholarships, grants and exhibition opportunities. YVR Art Foundation receives funding from Vancouver Airport Authority and from individual, foundation and corporate donors. For more information about the YVR Art Foundation, visit www.yvraf.com.

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