

## **YVR Art Foundation awards \$50,000 in scholarships to Indigenous artists**

RICHMOND, B.C. (May 3, 2018): YVR Art Foundation (YVRAF) is pleased to announce the 10 BC and Yukon Indigenous recipients of the 2018 YVR Art Foundation scholarship awards. The recipients will be recognized at the annual YVRAF awards event, which will also include the unveiling of the 2017 scholarship recipients' art work at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) on May 25, 2018.

"It is with great pleasure that we are awarding the 2018 scholarships to such a well-deserving group of individuals," said Susan Jackson, Executive Director, YVR Art Foundation. "For 13 years, winning a YVR Art Foundation scholarship has provided early recognition and support for young and mid-career artists, many of whom have gone on to thriving art careers. We are excited to encourage a new generation of artists in their creative and professional development."

YVRAF art scholarships are awarded annually to artists of British Columbia and Yukon Indigenous 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 event, followed by an exhibition of their work at YVR for one year.

### **The recipients of the 2018 YVR Art Foundation Youth Art Scholarships are:**

- Emma Frank, age 23, K'omoks, Namgis, Eh-ChoDene, from Comox
- Sage Nowak, age 25, Tahltan/Vuntut Gwitchin, from Whitehorse
- Sesyaz Saunders, age 20, Nuxalk, from Bella Coola
- Yvonne Starr, age 24, Gitxsan, from Delta
- Cora Leigh-Stelmaschuk, age 25, Tsimshian, from Terrace
- Veronica Rose Waechter, age 22, Gitxsan, from Vancouver
- Skil Jaadee White, age 22, Haida, from Masset

### **The recipients of the 2018 YVR Art Foundation Mid-Career Artist Scholarships are:**

- Roxanne Charles, Semiahmoo First Nation, from Surrey
- Meghann O'Brien, Haida, Kwakwaka'wakw from Prince Rupert
- Marika Swan, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, from Ty-Histanis

Since 2005, YVR Art Foundation has awarded over 100 scholarships, grants and awards totaling more than \$400,000 to BC and Yukon Indigenous artists.

### **About the YVR Art Foundation**

YVR Art Foundation (YVRAF) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that supports the development and advancement of BC and Yukon Indigenous art and artists by providing scholarships, grants and exhibition opportunities. YVR Art Foundation is funded through generous support from Vancouver Airport Authority and from individual donors, foundations corporate donors. For more information about the YVR Art Foundation, visit [www.yvraf.com](http://www.yvraf.com).

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