FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation announces the winners of the 2024 VIVA Awards

Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill & T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss each awarded $15,000

FEB. 18, 2025 (VANCOUVER, CANADA) — The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts is thrilled to announce **Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill** and **T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss** as the two winners of the 2024 VIVA Awards. They will be recognized in an awards ceremony at **Emily Carr University** on **March 26, 2025, at 6pm**, marking the first in-person VIVA Awards celebration since 2019.

"The jury was unanimous in their support for Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill and T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss as the 2024 VIVA Awards recipients," says Melanie O'Brian, Associate Director/Curator, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, UBC and Chair of the Shadbolt Foundation. "We acknowledge these two artists' outstanding contributions as committed and visible members in the local, regional, and national art communities. The jury additionally noted that both artists' practices address land, politics, and economies in significant material processes."

The VIVA Awards, established in 1988 by Jack and Doris Shadbolt, are annual prizes awarded to mid-career visual artists in British Columbia who demonstrate exceptional creative ability and commitment to the visual arts. The 2024 jury consisted of Sean Alward, Charles Campbell, Laiwan, Hazel Meyer, and Samuel Roy-Bois.

Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill is an artist and writer whose practice explores the history of found materials to examine concepts of land, property, and alternative economies. Her work often addresses capitalism and its vulnerabilities, using readily sourced materials to consider private property, exchange, and black-market economies. A member of the Indigenous artist collective BUSH gallery, Hill prioritizes land-based teachings and Indigenous epistemologies. She holds an MFA from the California College of the Arts and degrees from Simon Fraser University. Her work has been exhibited at institutions including MoMA, the Venice Biennale, and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss is a Sḵwx̱wú7mesh, Sto:lo, Hawaiian, and Swiss interdisciplinary artist, educator, and Indigenous ethnobotanist. With 30 years of practice, her work encompasses storytelling and collaborative initiatives centered on Indigenous plant knowledge and natural space restoration. Recognized for sharing traditional knowledge through various mediums, including digital media and weaving, Wyss has exhibited at institutions such as the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery.

Recipient of the 2010 Mayor's Arts Award, she has also held residencies with Griffin Art Projects and the Vancouver Public Library, among others. In 2022, Wyss received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Emily Carr University.

The March 26 ceremony will also mark an opportunity to celebrate those who received awards in years without an in-person presentation: Hazel Meyer and Laiwan (2023), Charles Campbell and Jan Wade (2022), Diyan Achjadi and Samuel Roy-Bois (2021), and Lucie Chan, Cindy Mochizuki and Tania Willard (2020). Recipients of the two most recent Alvin Balkind Curator's Prize, Daina Augaitis and Makiko Hara, will also be honoured.

Admission is free for the awards ceremony, but an RSVP is required here. For more information, visit shadboltfoundation.org.

Awards ceremony
Date and time: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6pm
Location: Emily Carr University, 520 East 1st Ave, Vancouver

About the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts
In 1987, renowned artist Jack Shadbolt and his wife, Doris, a respected art curator and writer, established a foundation to recognize the lasting impact of artists in British Columbia. Jack, whose own distinguished career earned him accolades such as the Guggenheim Award and the Order of Canada, deeply understood the importance of supporting artistic growth. Doris, with her decades of experience at the Vancouver Art Gallery, shared this commitment to fostering a thriving arts community. Since the first VIVA Awards in 1988, more than 60 recipients have received funding to further their careers and artistic practice. In 2013, the biannual Alvin Balkind Curator's Prize was established to recognize excellence in the field of curating. Today, the Shadbolt Foundation continues their legacy by presenting the VIVA Awards and Balkind Prize on an annual and biannual basis.

Press kit and photos
bit.ly/2024VIVAAwards

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