



Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #10-009

January 20, 2010

Advanced Artist Award supports artistic exploration and innovation

WHITEHORSE – The Advanced Artist Award will provide \$40,000 toward 11 innovative projects being developed by Yukon visual, performing and literary artists.

"The Advanced Artist Award encourages artists to experiment and take risks, which is essential to their growth as professionals," Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor said. "By facilitating exploration by artists, the award assists Yukon artists in creating innovative works that are gaining them recognition from their contemporaries, and appreciation from audiences in Yukon and elsewhere."

For dancer Michelle Fisher, the award will support the development of a new work involving collaboration with other dance, film and theatre artists. Fisher and her collaborators will be creating four interdisciplinary pieces, each representing one of Yukon's four seasons.

"As a professional dance artist, I have decided to take the chance of creating an original piece inspired by my first year in the Yukon, a work of art that I can feel passionate about," Fisher said. "There is a risk in creating your own work, but the support I receive from the Advanced Artist Award makes it a risk worth taking."

In another project funded through the award, writer Lance Blomgren from Dawson City will be taking an original approach to the ghost story genre.

"The Advanced Artist Award will allow me the extra time to work on a series of three contemporary ghost stories towards a full length book," Blomgren said. "These stories will extend the themes of a number of recent writings which have gathered around notions of absence, ethereality and haunting as metaphors for the more concrete human conditions of memory and loss."

The Advanced Artist Award is funded by Lotteries Yukon and is administered by the Department of Tourism and Culture. Submissions are adjudicated by an independent committee.

The next intake for the Advanced Artist Award is April 1. Artists interested in applying are encouraged to contact the fund administrator at 667-8789 or toll-free from the communities at 1-800-661-0408, extension 8789.

For more information about the Advanced Artist Award visit www.tc.gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder below.

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List of Advanced Artist Award October 1, 2009 Recipients

	Recipient	Project	Amount
1	Michelle Fisher	To collaborate with 3 other Yukon dance artists to create 4 new dance pieces, portraying a year in Yukon.	\$2,500.00
2	Paul Gort	To create a new body of work using traditional furniture techniques and North American hardwoods.	\$2,500.00
3	Helen O'Connor	To create a collection of 2-D and 3-D handmade paper works for future exhibition.	\$2,500.00
4	Lance Blomgren	To extend themes from recent writings in order to develop and write 3 new short stories for a book-length collection.	\$2,500.00
5	Carrie Corcoran	To travel to Ireland and further develop a series of autobiographical travel pieces into a full manuscript.	\$2,500.00
6	Kim Barlow	To travel to Vancouver for composition, improvisation and vocal training, and to collaborate with other musicians.	\$4,500.00
7	Kim Beggs	To create a new collection of songs for an upcoming full-length album.	\$4,000.00
8	Judith Wong	To attend a cultural exchange in Vancouver and to create a new multidisciplinary work.	\$5,000.00
9	Valerie Salez	To create a new series of sculptures, made of stacked objects embedded in clear resin columns, for a show	\$5,000.00

		in 2010.	
10	Erin McMullan	To continue writing a creative non-fiction work about Yukoner Babe Richards.	\$4,000.00
11	Mitch Miyagawa	To work with an editor/mentor to edit a collection of literary non-fiction stories.	\$5,000.00
		Total	\$40,000.00

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