



PRESS RELEASE

2019 ARTIST RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council will celebrate artists Amy Brandon, Carol Bruneau, Raven Davis, Lindsay Dobbin, Ariella Pahlke, and Arielle Twist as part of the 14th Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala, to be held at the Halifax Central Library, Saturday, November 2, 2019.

The artistic vision for the gala is MAKE IT OURS.

MAKE IT OURS is a call to fight fear and scarcity and to celebrate our achievements together. It's a billboard that proclaims "There Is Space For You," a mantra that affirms that we are exactly who should be here, now, sharing our gifts in Nova Scotia.

AMY BRANDON, RAVEN DAVIS and LINDSAY DOBBIN will receive the 2019 Emerging Artist Recognition Award.

CAROL BRUNEAU and ARIELLA PAHLKE will receive the 2019 Established Artist Recognition Award.

ARIELLE TWIST will receive the 2019 Indigenous Artist Recognition Award.

Each artist will receive \$5,000.

EMERGING ARTIST RECOGNITION AWARD

Amy Brandon
Raven Davis
Lindsay Dobbin

ESTABLISHED ARTIST RECOGNITION AWARD

Carol Bruneau
Ariella Pahlke

INDIGENOUS ARTIST RECOGNITION AWARD

Arielle Twist



Left to right: Amy Brandon (photo courtesy of the artist), Raven Davis (photo courtesy of the artist), Lindsay Dobbin (photo courtesy of the artist)

AMY BRANDON (composer/musician) holds degrees in jazz guitar performance and composition, and is currently completing an interdisciplinary PhD in music cognition at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She has performed internationally and at several experimental music festivals. In addition to performing and academic work, Brandon has written contemporary choral, chamber, orchestral and acousmatic work, with premieres in Dublin, NYC, London, France and Toronto. This August, Brandon was the organizer and artistic director of the 21st Century Guitar Conference in Ottawa, including an international roster of some of the world's most accomplished guitarists, featuring a world premiere of one of Brandon's compositions, performed by luminary NYC jazz guitar virtuoso Miles Okazaki. Amy Brandon is from Truro, NS. (Pronouns: she/her/hers)

RAVEN DAVIS (multidisciplinary artist, curator, human rights speaker, writer and educator) is from the Anishinaabek Nation, Treaty Four in Manitoba, Canada and now resides and works as a professional artist and educator between Halifax and their birth territory. Davis' work blends narratives of colonization, race, gender, disability, sexuality, Two-Spirit identity and the Anishinaabemowin language and culture into a variety of contemporary art forms. Davis has exhibited their artwork as part of the 2015 Venice Biennale and, in 2016, was the first art and activism Artist-in-Residence for NSCAD University. Davis' films have screened at international film festivals in Berlin, Amsterdam, New York City, Montreal and Toronto. Davis is currently working on a solo exhibit to be held at McMaster University in 2020, and will speak at the Carl A. Fields Centre for Equality, and Cultural Understanding at Princeton University in New York, in November, 2019. (Pronouns: they/them/theirs)

LINDSAY DOBBIN (water protector, artist, musician, curator and educator) is a Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk)-Acadian-Irish who lives and works on the Bay of Fundy and in K'jipuktuk (Halifax), Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of Lnu'k (Mi'kmaq). Born in and belonging to the Kennebecasis River Valley, the traditional territory of the Wəlastəkwiyik, Mi'kmaq and Passamaquoddy, Dobbin has lived throughout Wabanaki as well as the Yukon in Kwanlin Dūn territory. Dobbin's relational and place-responsive practice includes music, sound art, performance, sculpture, installation, social practices and writing, and is invested in Indigenous epistemologies and cultural practices, such as drumming. As a passionate educator, Dobbin employs traditional and contemporary land-based practices, creativity, play and improvisation as tools for self-awareness, collaboration, experiential learning and community building — revealing that people and the environment are related in dynamic ways. (Pronouns: they/them/theirs)

CAROL BRUNEAU (author) is the acclaimed author of five novels, including *A Circle on the Surface*, winner of the 2018 Jim Connors Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction, and three short story collections. Her most recent collection, *A Bird on Every Tree*, was a finalist for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award and the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction, both in 2018. Her first novel, *Purple for Sky*, won both awards in 2001. Re-released for the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, her novel *Glass Voices* was a Globe and Mail Best Book for 2007. Bruneau is the past president and longtime member of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia. As a community mentor, she has led workshops and writing classes at various universities, including NSCAD and Dalhousie, in pursuit of a celebration of narrative, storytelling, and its critical role in our daily culture. Bruneau lives in Halifax. (Pronouns: she/her/hers)

ARIELLA PAHLKE (documentary filmmaker, media artist, curator, and educator) lives in Terence Bay, Nova Scotia. For the past 25 years, she has directed, written and produced award-winning feature documentaries, shorts, installations, and media projects that have screened internationally. Pahlke has extensive experience facilitating collaborative projects with participatory process at the heart of her documentary approach. Pahlke's most recent project, *Conviction*, is a feature-length collaboration with women in prison and advocates, created together with filmmakers Nance Ackerman and Teresa MacInnes. Together, they are engaging audiences across Canada to mobilize change through the #BuildCommunitiesNotPrisons impact campaign. Ariella Pahlke also has a collaborative interactive video installation, *Les voix de Clare résonnent*, presently showing in Moncton at the University of New Brunswick's Musée acadien and Galerie d'art Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen. This piece was created by the Acadie art exchange collective, and community members in Clare, Nova Scotia. (Pronouns: she/her/hers)

ARIELLE TWIST (author and multidisciplinary artist) is a Nehiyaw, Two-Spirit, Trans Woman who creates to reclaim and harness ancestral magic and memories. Originally from George Gordon First Nation, Saskatchewan, she is now based out of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Twist has published works with *Them*, *Canadian Art*, *The Fiddlehead*, *PRISM International*, *This Magazine* and *CBC Art*. She has been shortlisted for a Pushcart Prize and a National Magazine Award, both in 2019. *Disintegrate/Dissociate* is Twist's first collection of poetry, selected by CBC Books as a work of poetry to look out for, and Twist as a writer to watch in 2019. Arielle Twist will attend a fellowship with The University of Victoria's Chair in Transgender Studies later this fall and is a R.I.S.E Artist and Poet Fellow for 2019. (Pronouns: she/her/hers)



Left to right: Carol Bruneau (photo by Nicola Davison), Ariella Pahlke (photo by Wiebke Schröder), Arielle Twist (photo courtesy of the artist)

MAKE IT OURS

ABOUT THE CREATIVE NOVA SCOTIA AWARDS GALA

Presented by Arts Nova Scotia and the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council, the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala (the Gala) is an annual event that celebrates excellence in artistic achievement, to include the announcements of the Portia White Prize, the Lieutenant Governor's Masterworks Award, winners of the Prix Grand-Pré, the Established Artist, Emerging Artist and Indigenous Artist awards, and the Creative Community Impact Award. Collectively, the awards are worth \$95,000.

The Gala will consist of live performances, activated spaces, and installations. The awards ceremony will provide an opportunity for the presentation of the province's top arts and culture prizes.

The Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala

Date: Saturday November 2, 2019

Start time: 7:30 pm

Location: Halifax Central Library

Artistic Directors/Event Management Team: HEIST

Free Admission / This event is 19+

Eventbrite tickets available Friday, October 18, 2019

More details at artsns.ca

For media inquiries (interview requests, artist images):

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

