

Theme for *The Grand National Quilt Show Leads to Tour de Force*

May 16, 2008 - *Kitchener, Ontario, Canada* - The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) and Joseph Schneider Haus Museum (JSH) are pleased to announce the award winners for this year's *The Grand National* quilt show, *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. Each year, prizes are awarded in several categories including the Grand Prize, the Curator's Choice Award, for Interpretation of Theme, an Award of Excellence and Honourable Mentions. The public is invited to *The Grand National* Artists' Award reception at KW|AG on May 29th from 6 - 8 p.m. at which time the awards will be officially presented.

This year's **Grand Prize** winner of \$1000, sponsored by Greenwood Quiltery (Guelph, ON) and Coats & Clark, Canada, is awarded to Liz Robinson from Stratford, Prince Edward Island for her work *Memory, Consciousness and Imagination*. According to Susan Burke, Manager/Curator of Joseph Schneider Haus Museum and Curator of *The Grand National*, "*Memory, Consciousness and Imagination* fully exploits the intellectual and technical promise of the theme *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. This piece is quite simply a *tour de force*. Robinson has deconstructed the concept, analyzed it thoughtfully, then reconstructed the outcomes of her deliberations into a lushly-layered, beautifully integrated quilt-collage."

Memory, Consciousness and Imagination unfolds from left to right with the quilt's message spiraling around the image of an ancient fossil (ammonite). Robinson explains that she had no idea what her final quilt would look like, but with a "sense of play" and by engaging in both the "agonies and ecstasies" of the creative process, she learned to let go and leave some elements to "happenstance and whimsy."

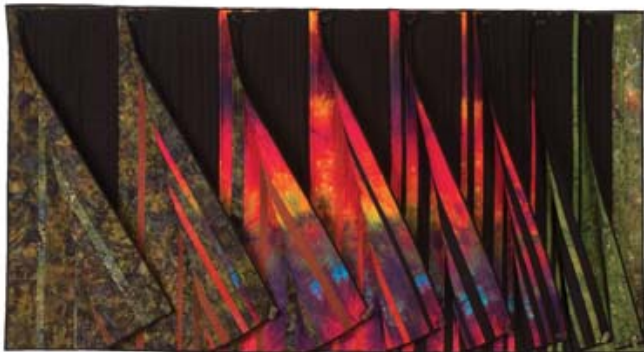
"I really had to be fearless, not care what anyone else would think, and create this quilt because I was truly moved to do it," said Robinson. "One of the things that got me into quilting in the first place was when someone told me that there are no rules. Well, this [*Memory, Consciousness and Imagination*] is what you get when there are no rules. I am very honoured to receive this award."



Liz Robinson (Stratford, PEI). *Memory, Consciousness, and Imagination*. 2008, mixed media. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo: K.J. Bedford, KW|AG.

Additional awards include:

The **Curator Choice Award**, \$500 sponsored by the Waterloo County Quilters' Guild, awarded to Anna Hergert from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, for her two quilts *Rejuvenation* and *Fragments*.



Anna Hergert (Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan). *Rejuvenation*. 2003, fabric. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo: K.J. Bedford, KW|AG.



Anna Hergert (Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan). *Fragments*. 2007, mixed media. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo: K.J. Bedford, KW|AG.



Joan Bielun (Penticton, BC). *Resident Relic*. 2007, fabric. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo: K.J. Bedford, KW|AG.

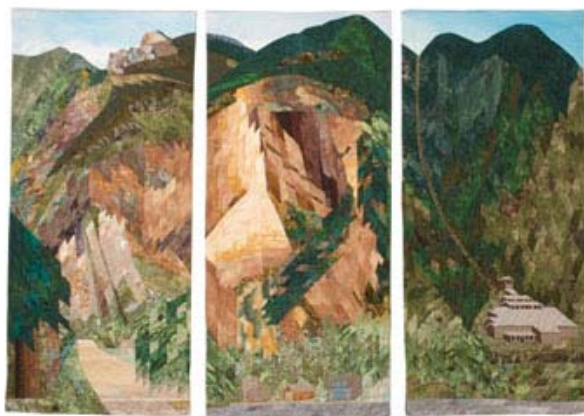
The Janome **Award of Excellence**, sponsored by Janome Canada, awarded to Joan Bielun from Penticton, British Columbia, for her work *Resident Relic*. Bielun will receive the Janome Memory Craft 6600 sewing machine currently on display in the foyer of the Gallery.



Hilary Rice (Corner Brook, NL). *Nine Patch for the Unknown Quilter*. 2008, mixed media. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo: K.J. Bedford, KW|AG.

The Award for **Interpretation of the Theme**, *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, is a \$650 cash award sponsored by Triangle Sewing Centre in Guelph and the Creative Sewing Centre in Kitchener, ON. The Award for **Interpretation of the Theme** goes to Hilary Rice from Corner Brook, Newfoundland for her work *Nine Patch for the Unknown Quilter*.

Two quilts receiving **Honourable Mentions** this year include: *Mascot Gold Mine: The Mascot Mine; Hedley Townsite: The Stamp Mill* by Donna Pringle, from Oliver, British Columbia, for her narrative interpretation of the theme, *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, and Lynn Krueger, from Elmira, Ontario, for her imaginative use of the triptych form in her work *Teapots: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*.



Donna Pringle (Oliver, BC), *Mascot Gold Mine: The Mascot Mine; Hedley Townsite: The Stamp Mill*, 2008, fabric. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo: K.J. Bedford, KW|AG.



Lynn Krueger (Elmira, ON), *Teapots: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, 2008, mixed media. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo: K.J. Bedford, KW|AG.

In addition, after the exhibition closes on July 6th, the **Viewer's Choice Award** sponsored by Elna, Canada will be announced. Visitors to the exhibition are invited to vote for their favourite, and the winning quilt with the most votes, will be posted on the Gallery's website at www.kwag.on.ca. This winning artist will receive an Elna Pro Quilting Queen sewing machine.

On May 24, May 26 to May 31, and June 1st, "white glove" volunteers will be present in the Gallery to answer questions and provide their expertise on the technical aspects of quilting.



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These volunteers wear gloves to handle the works without damaging them. *The Grand National* exhibition also features a video, and gallery visitors can contribute to a collaborative series of quilt blocks or create their own quilt work with the various materials provided. Otto Beyer's works, *Town Scape No.2*, *Terraces* and *Turm am Stadtwall (Tower at the Moat)* from KW|AG's permanent collection, are featured in the Interpretative Gallery, inviting participants to consider the ways his paintings are reminiscent of quilting and home crafts.

A twelve page insert featuring images of the exhibited quilts will be included in the June issue of *A Needle Pulling Thread* magazine. A full exhibition catalogue is available for free download on the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery web site at http://www.kwag.on.ca/current_exhibitions/view/?display=more&item_id=67

The Grand National exhibition is complemented by Janet Morton's *Better Homes and Gardens* in the Eastman Gallery. For more information on *Better Homes and Gardens*, read our [companion press release](#).

Exhibition Details

The Grand National: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

May 9 – July 6, 2008; Extended Hours: May 30-31: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Artists' Awards Reception: Thursday, May 29, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Admission: \$6 Adults, \$2 Children (ages 6-12), \$5 each for Groups of 20 or more

Admission is free for KW|AG members with a membership card.

About the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

Through thoughtful and engaging programs, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW|AG) connects people and ideas through art. The Gallery's exhibits and programs are built on the mission that art is the catalyst for shared experience, dialogue and imagination. The Gallery emphasizes contemporary art, often premiering works by Canadian and international artists. Exhibitions frequently draw upon selections from the 4 000 work permanent collection to provide a forum for dialogue. KW|AG plays a vital educational role in the community, offering a full spectrum of artistic experience for adults, children and families alike. Established in 1956 and operating within Centre In The Square, KW|AG is the oldest and largest public gallery in Waterloo region: roots in the community, eyes on the world. For more information, contact mail@kwag.on.ca or visit www.kwag.on.ca.

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