

PRESS RELEASE

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DAWN CERNY WINS THE 2020 BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Cerny wins \$15,000 and a solo exhibition at SAM in 2021

Special recognition for Elijah Hasan and Tariqa Waters

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SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) and the Betty Bowen Committee, chaired by Gary Glant, announced that Dawn Cerny is the winner of the 2020 [Betty Bowen Award](#). The juried award comes with an unrestricted cash award of \$15,000 and a solo exhibition at SAM. Founded in 1977 to continue the legacy of local arts advocate and supporter Betty Bowen, the annual award honors a Northwest artist for their original, exceptional, and compelling work.

Cerny's sculptures, made of inexpensive and readily available materials such as wood, wire, and cardboard, explore what she refers to as "the theater of Home." Recent solo shows include Oxbow, Seattle (2020), the Portland Art Museum (2017), and the Henry Art Gallery (2017). In 2016, she was the recipient of a Betty Bowen Special Recognition Award, and in 2019 was an Artist in Residence at Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, WA. Her work will be featured at the Seattle Art Museum in a solo exhibition in 2021, dates to be announced.

In addition, Elijah Hasan won the Special Recognition Award and Tariqa Waters won the Kayla Skinner Special Recognition Award, with awards in the amount of \$2,500 each. Finalists Roland Dahwen, Marilyn Montufar, and Christian Alborz Oldham will each receive awards in the amount of \$1,250, added by the committee this year in recognition of the financial hardships many creatives are facing due to the coronavirus. The six finalists were chosen from a pool of 615 applicants from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to compete for the \$23,750 in awards.



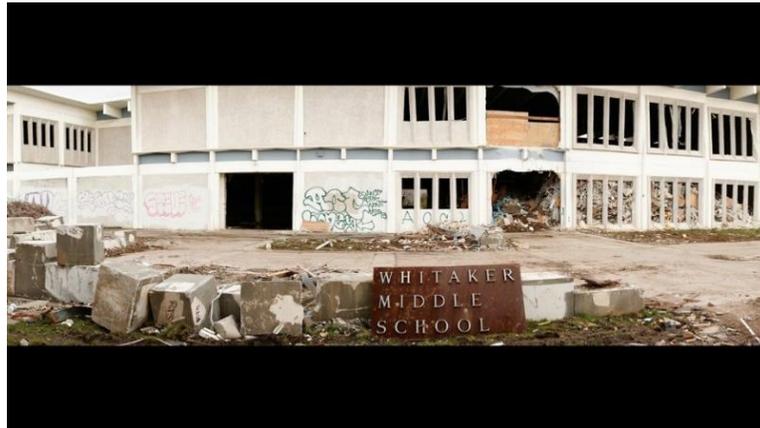
Last year's winner was Lynne Siefert, the first filmmaker to win the award. Her work will be featured at the Seattle Art Museum in a solo exhibition opening October 16, 2020.

2020 BETTY BOWEN WINNER

Dawn Cerny - Seattle, WA

Cerny's sculptures explore the idea of "home" as both a concept and a place, and as an arena rich for investigation. Her recent body of work examines ideas of furniture and mothers as metaphors: figures that secure value for their potential to hold, display, or be absentmindedly left with things. This pattern of holding as the creation of intimacy and belonging, pleasure, and self-preservation plays out repeatedly in her work.

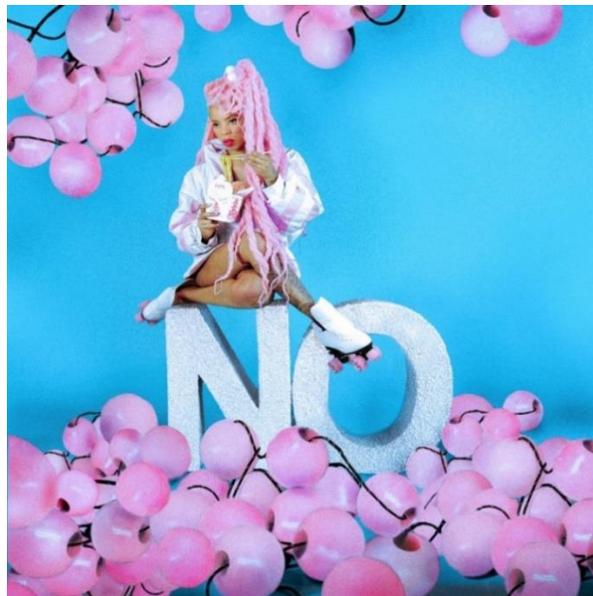
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



Elijah Hasan - Portland, OR

Hasan is a writer, filmmaker, and director. His projects lay bare the realities of systemic racism, social justice, and activism, exploring subjects such as the experiences of Black police officers in the Portland police department and the parallels between Americans who fought in the Spanish Civil War and contemporary members of Antifa. He centers the stories of Black communities as they navigate these realities, all while on a personal journey of artistic and spiritual growth.

KAYLA SKINNER SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



Tariqa Waters - Seattle, WA

Waters' whimsical, Pop-inspired work references childhood memories where vanity and self-preservation collide to mask systemic and generational pain. Her work examines ideas of femininity, beauty, race, sexuality, and inclusion. Using photography, videography, and sculptural fabrication, Waters attempts to create innovative ways to distort reality to the point where marginalization is impossible.

2020 BETTY BOWEN COMMITTEE

Gary Glant (Chair), Mark Calderon, Mike Hess, Sonal Khullar, Isaac Layman, Mark Levine, Catharina Manchanda, Llewelyn Pritchard, Greg Robinson, Dan Webb, Norie Sato, Maggie Walker, Merrill Wright

ABOUT THE BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Betty Bowen (1918–1977) was a Washington native and enthusiastic supporter of Northwest artists. Her friends established the annual Betty Bowen Award as a celebration of her life and to honor and continue her efforts to provide financial support to the artists of the region. Since 1977, SAM has hosted the yearly grant application process by which the selection committee chooses one artist from the Northwest to receive an unrestricted cash award, eligible to visual artists living and working in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Image credits: *The farm that was there and then not*, 2020, wood, hand-blown glass, plaster tape, wire, paint, clay, 27 x 22 x 14 in., Courtesy of the artist, © Dawn Cerny. *Screen from Leisure Activity Area at Eden Lake*, Dawn Cerny, 2020, wood, hand-blown glass, plaster tape, epoxy clay, yarn, wire, 77 x 42 x 21 in., Courtesy of artist, © Dawn Cerny. *Where the Heart is_130 production still*, Elijah Hasan, 2019, digital video, 1920 x 1080 x 0 cm. Courtesy of artist, © Elijah Hasan. *NO*, Tariqa Waters, 2020, archival matte print, 48 x 48 x 0.5 in., Courtesy of artist, © Tariqa Waters.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and rededicated as the Asian Art Museum in 1994, and it reopened on February 8, 2020 following an extensive renovation and expansion. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a “museum without walls,” free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures, and time periods.