

PRESS RELEASE

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NATALIE BALL WINS THE 2018 BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Two Special Recognition winners also selected

Artists will be honored at a free public ceremony and reception on Thursday, November 8



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SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) and the Betty Bowen Committee, chaired by Gary Glant, announced today that multidisciplinary artist Natalie Ball is the winner of the 2018 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.

Natalie Ball approaches her sculptural work through the lens of auto-ethnography, aiming to dislodge dominant narratives and expectations surrounding Native American experience and history to establish more complex racial narratives. Her work will be featured in an installation at the Seattle Art Museum in spring 2019.

In addition, Amy Bernstein won the Kayla Skinner Special Recognition Award in the amount of \$2,500, and Deborah Faye Lawrence won the Special Recognition Award in the amount of \$2,500. Five finalists, including Bruce Burris and George Rodriguez, were chosen from a pool of 461 applicants from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to compete for the \$20,000 in awards.

The award ceremony honoring Natalie Ball, Amy Bernstein, and Deborah Faye Lawrence will take place on Thursday, November 8 at 6 pm at the Seattle Art Museum. The ceremony and reception are free and open to the public.



2018 BETTY BOWEN AWARD WINNER

Natalie Ball – Chiloquin, OR



Natalie Ball was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. She is an MFA graduate from Yale University and recently relocated to Chiloquin, which is part of her ancestral Klamath homelands. As a multidisciplinary artist, Ball positions her work as a reorientation of conversations that shape Native American identities. Natalie Ball understands her practice as “offering objects as proposals of refusal to

complicate an easily affirmed and consumed narrative identity.”

KAYLA SKINNER SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

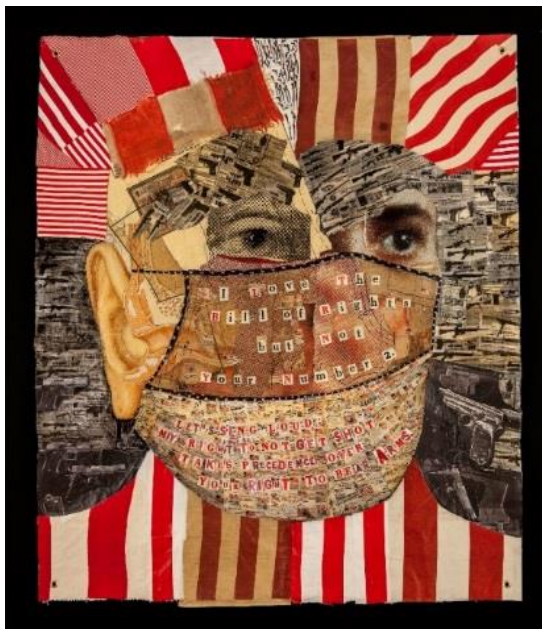
Amy Bernstein – Portland, OR



Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Amy Bernstein is an artist and writer living and working in Portland, Oregon. Bernstein’s abstract paintings encourage the viewer to reposition themselves in relation to who they are, what they see, and where the body exists in time and space. The works vacillate between the histories of philosophies, art, and design, searching for the space in which we will discover new vision and thus new thinking.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Deborah Faye Lawrence – Seattle, WA



Deborah Faye Lawrence uses the medium of collage to analyze, categorize, and make meaning. She boldly reports and comments on social, historical, and current events through the process of cutting, manipulating, and composing found information. Her appropriation and re-contextualization of found images, including maps and flags, points to a tradition of politically engaged collage, while satirically and incisively addressing contemporary concerns.

2018 BETTY BOWEN COMMITTEE

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

Honorary Member: Jeffrey Bishop

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: Portrait of Natalie Ball by Greg Wahl-Stephens, courtesy of the artist. *Pussy Hat* series, Natalie Ball, 2018, mixed media, 13 x 9 x 4.25 in. Courtesy of artist, © Natalie Ball. *Fair Green*, Amy Bernstein, 2018, oil on canvas, 46 x 52 in. Courtesy of artist, © Amy Bernstein. *Open Carry*, Deborah Faye Lawrence, 2017, fabric, paper, acrylic collage on canvas, 41 x 35 in. Courtesy of artist, © Deborah Lawrence.

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 reopened as the Asian Art Museum in 1994. 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.