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Premier Award Winners Sang-Sool Shim and Keum-Sun Lee. *In the Beautiful Dream*, 2018
Photo: Haruhiko Sameshima

Korean couple take out top award in national ceramic competition

Te Uru is pleased to announce local Henderson duo Sang-Sool Shim and Keum-Sun Lee as the Premier Award Winners in the 2018 Portage Ceramic Awards, for their piece, *In the Beautiful Dream*.

The Award, with a value of \$15,000, was presented by this year's guest judge, Los Angeles artist Bari Ziperstein, at a ceremony held in West Auckland's Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery on Thursday 8 November.

"Shim and Lee's large-scale vessel has an unexpected presence – with its undulating thinly coil built bodily form," says Ziperstein, who previewed the finalists immediately after arriving in Auckland from Los Angeles. "Matched with its delicate flower carved surface and meticulous glaze application – these flowers haunted me at night in my jet lag haze. Ready to take over the next surface that it encounters – a powerful piece in form and concept."

The winning work was initially built and altered on a potter's wheel, with free-hand carved details on the surface and inlaid colour. Shim and Lee describe their work as a scene from the perspective of "A beautiful woman who goes into the world with a throbbing heart."

"In her dream, the world looks like a flower garden, which is full of excitement with dazzling blossoms. Fully-leaved green trees sway in the night."

Zipperstein also presented three Merit Awards to artists Jim Cooper (Dunedin), Andrea du Chatenier (Whanganui) and Rick Rudd (Whanganui). A further five Honourable Mentions were awarded to Brendan Adams, Jinho Jeong, Peter Lange, John Roy and Susan St Lawrence.



Merit Award winners Jim Cooper, Andrea du Chatenier and Rick Rudd.
All photos: Haruhiko Sameshima, courtesy Te Uru

Established in 2001 and administered by Te Uru with support from The Trusts Community Foundation, the annual Portage Ceramic Awards are Aotearoa-New Zealand's best-known survey of contemporary ceramic activity. The *2018 Portage Ceramic Awards* winners and finalist works will be on display at Te Uru in Titirangi from 9 November 2018 - 10 February 2019.

Hours: 10am – 4.30pm daily
Address: 420 Titirangi Road, Titirangi, Auckland
Website: www.teuru.org.nz

For interviews with the winners, high-resolution images or for further information, please contact: James Anderson, 021 144 9608, james@teuru.org.nz

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Editors' Notes

About the judge:

The 2018 Portage Ceramic Awards judge **Bari Ziperstein** is an artist based in Los Angeles, California. Working in mixed media sculpture, Ziperstein's primary focus is in ceramics. Her plural and fluid practice includes discrete objects, large-scale installation, site-specific public sculpture, and her line of functional ceramics, BZippy & Co. Materially experimental but conceptual at its core, Bari's practice engages ideas of consumerism, propaganda, and the built environment. Her objects and sculptural tableaux reflect her interest in the political dimensions of capitalist economies and challenge the construction of desire and aspiration in contemporary American culture through a historical lens.

About the artists:

Sang-Sool Shim and Keum-Sun Lee are Korean potters and ceramic artists. Shim is a Grand Master 9th Dan of Martial Art and Lee has a PhD. Working with both 10th-century and 15-century techniques of Korean pottery, Sang Sool and Keum Sun have adapted these traditions and added colours to give a contemporary aspect to their creations. They have had many successful exhibitions in Korea, Austria, Croatia and New Zealand and have won Portage Ceramic Awards in New Zealand for 10 years continuously, as well as international awards in Austria and Korea. Their collaborative works are included in the Austria Museum and Portage Trust New Zealand Collections. In November 2018, their ceramic sculpture will be exhibited as part of Sculpture on the Shore.

Jim Cooper gained a Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics from Otago Polytech in 2000. He has shown his work extensively in public and private galleries throughout New Zealand as well as in Sydney, Denmark and Taiwan. Jim has been the recipient of multiple international residencies and has won the Premier prize in the Portage Ceramic Awards twice, in 2009 (joint winner) and 2012.

Andrea du Chatenier is a sculptor-turned-ceramicist. She holds a Masters of Fine Art from RMIT, Melbourne, and has a studio in Whanganui. Her work is held in public and private collections. In 2017, she received the Portage Guldagergaard Residency Award.

Rick Rudd was born in 1949 in the UK and trained in ceramics before moving to NZ in 1973. He has won several awards and has been president of the Auckland and New Zealand Potters' societies. He opened the Quartz Museum of Studio Ceramics in Whanganui in 2015 through his charitable trust, The Rick Rudd Foundation.

About the Portage Ceramic Awards:

Established in 2001, the annual Portage Ceramic Awards are Aotearoa-New Zealand's best-known survey of contemporary ceramic activity. Administered by Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery with support from The Trusts Community Foundation, the awards are a hallmark event for the New Zealand ceramics community, showcasing some of the best contemporary work, and serving as a platform for dialogue about developments in the ceramics field. The awards are open to all New Zealand artists and are a key outlet for new work and new voices.

The Premier Portage Ceramic Award carries a prize of \$15,000. Up to three Merit Awards totaling \$3,000 are also on offer, and a People's Choice Award is announced at the exhibition's conclusion. The overall winners are announced at a ceremony held at Te Uru on 8 November 2018.

About Te Uru:

Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery is West Auckland's regional gallery. Te Uru is an institution locally rooted in West Auckland but globally minded. Through our programmes, we create a world stage for art that is relevant to West Aucklanders, to put local art, artists and ideas in conversation and context with national and international developments in contemporary practice. As a destination gallery, Te Uru operates from an award-winning building in the recently re-opened Lopdell Precinct. The gallery originally opened in 1986 in the historic Lopdell House building in the heart of Titirangi, gateway to the Waitākere rain forest and en route to Auckland's famous west coast beaches. We reopened as Te Uru in 2014 in new purpose-built facilities, offering extraordinary exhibitions and spectacular views of the surrounding area. Te Uru receives core funding from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board of Auckland Council.

For more information, contact:

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