



ALASKAN CARPENTER TAKES OUT SUPREME AT MONTANA WORLD OF WEARABLEART™ AWARDS SHOW IN NEW ZEALAND

David Walker, a carpenter from Alaska won the Montana Supreme WOW® Award in Wellington, with awards also going to designers across New Zealand, India, the USA and the UK.

The 21st Montana World Of Wearableart™ (WOW®) Awards were announced last night after another spectacular show with an international designer winning, for the first time in WOW®'s history. 165 incredible garments graced the stage across seven unique sections in and around graffiti art, magic gardens, super heroes, dancing cowboys, charming creatures from the dark and a parallel universe. Award winning comedic maestros, The Topp Twins entertained the audience along with New Zealand's premiere percussion group, Strike and high-octane hip-hop dance troupe, Legacy.

"There was no sign of a recession for the Montana WOW® Awards Show, with designers from all over the planet ascending on New Zealand to see their garments come to life on the catwalk," said Suzie Moncrieff, WOW® Founder and Director. "It was very exciting for an international designer to win, reflecting how truly global the event has become."

The Supreme Montana WOW® Award went to David Walker from Alaska for his sensational, 17th Century ball gown *Lady Of The Wood*. The Alaskan artist created the piece entirely out of mahogany and lacewood with 52 strips of maple and cedar veneer for the hooped skirt, topped off with a glamorous wig made out of wood shavings. A carpenter by trade, Walker has been creating WearableArt™ for ten years and can't get enough of the Montana WOW® Awards Show, attending for the third year in a row and scooping the highly coveted WETA Award in 2007. *Lady Of The Wood* was also winner of the Tourism New Zealand Avant Garde Section.

Associate British Royal Sculptor and 2009 WOW® judge, Max Patte said of the Supreme Montana WOW® Award, "It works on every level - original design and beautifully executed and something that can be appreciated by everyone. Once again, it raises the game and expectations for next year's WOW®!"

Long term WOW® award winning designer and 1996 Supreme winner, Susan Holmes from Auckland, took out the highly coveted Untouched World WOW® Award - chosen

by Suzie Moncrieff for the most innovative garment with WOW® factor - for her creation, *Firebird*. The garment combined Stravinsky's music with the exotic displays of Birds Of Paradise, revealing an astonishing display of colour as it unfolded on stage. "I have entered every year since 1990 and it never gets any easier!" said Holmes.

The humble dandelion was the impetus behind Tracy Koole's entry, *The Dandelion Clock*, winner of the Children's Section. The elaborate garment honours the lovely childhood practice of making a wish then blowing the seeds into the universe, and was worn by three children. The Auckland costume maker has been entering the Montana WOW® Awards Show for seven years.

Winner of the 2006 Montana WOW® Supreme Award, Rodney Leong was runner up in the Tourism New Zealand Avant Garde Section this year with, *AM I I AM*. The three piece ensemble was based on one of Colin McCahon's famous paintings *Victory Over Death 2*, which questions faith and strength. The Trelise Cooper pattern maker transformed acrylic sheeting into an illusion of flicking through books on svelte black dresses and said, "it's a statement about one's self - living with the fear of doubt."

A successful husband and wife team, Dinah and Mark Walker were runners up in the World of WearableArt & Classic Cars Museum Man Unleashed® Section. 1970's artist Bill Culbert and his stunning use of light was the inspiration behind their captivating male suit, *Colour Blind* made out of venetian blinds, and designed to "bring the full spectrum of colour to the dull and boring suit." The Walkers were also commended in the same section in 2007.

The line up of high calibre judges for 2009 were British born, Associate Royal Sculptor Max Patte, fashion designer and savvy businesswoman, Annah Stretton, Suzie Moncrieff and Mr. Tsai Kang Yung, who judged the Wellington International Award. Oscar winning film-maker, Richard Taylor of WETA Workshop judged the Special WETA Award for the garment that best crossed the boundaries of film and WearableArt™.

Mr. Tsai Kang Yung, one of Asia's top television personalities and international WOW® guest judge said, "I wish every design student from around the world could have a chance to see this show, to see how powerful the creative mind can be."

37 International designers and over 100 global media were visiting Wellington to attend the Montana WOW® Awards Show, alongside many New Zealand designers. The show season runs until Sunday October 4th to a total audience of nearly 40,000.

*Montana Wines from New Zealand are avid supporters of creativity, and are the naming partner of the WOW® Awards Show. Founder of World of WearableArt™ Ltd, Suzie Moncrieff, and Montana's managing director, Fabian Partigliani, announced that their 12 year partnership will continue for a further three years until 2012 on stage at the 2009 Montana World of WearableArt™ Awards show on Friday 25th September.

Described as, "a rebellion against the mundane", the Montana World of WearableArt™ Awards Show bends traditional perceptions of both art and fashion by choreographing garments into an extravaganza that blasts all the senses and uplifts the spirit. Esteemed BBC correspondent Michael Peschardt said, after

seeing the show, "I've seen major cultural and fashion shows around the world and this is unlike anything I've ever witnessed before."

For further information, including imagery please refer to the on-line media room at www.worldofwearableart.com or e-mail Loren Aberhart, Media Liaison media@worldofwearableart.com or phone: 021 2753 853

** Footer:*

When publishing content please ensure you refer to the show as the Montana World of WearableArt™ Awards Show which can then be truncated to the Montana WOW® Awards Show. Please also ensure you publish the correct names for sections and awards ie: the Air New Zealand South Pacific Section.