



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 and a Timaru artist took out the highly coveted WETA Award for the second year running.

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.

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.

"It was very exciting for an international designer to win, reflecting how truly global the event has become," said Suzie Moncrieff, WOW® Founder and Director.

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®!"

Winner of the prestigious 2008 WETA Award, Sarah Thomas, took out the 2009 WETA award too, as well as winning the American Express Open Section with her remarkable piece, *American Dream*, modelled on the 1950's car. The Timaru artist was inspired after visiting the World of WearableArt™ & Classic Cars Museum in Nelson and her entry celebrates the notion that cars are often regarded as female with perky tail fins, extravagant bumpers and mounds of well-placed chrome. Richard Taylor of WETA Workshop judged the award blind, so did not realize Thomas was the recipient again until he presented it to her on stage.

"Winning one of the most coveted awards on consecutive years was an incredible triumph," said Moncrieff.

The face of Christ on a piece of toast being sold on Trademe, gave Marie Gant Roxburgh the idea for her striking piece, *Into Thin Air*, winner of the CentrePort Illumination Illusion® Section. The Christchurch student was inspired by "the way we present faces to the world" and used photos of her late mother-in-law and grandfather in the eyes of her dramatic face that appeared to pop out from the shadows. "I wanted to create something that represented our memories over time which fade into thin air," said Grant Roxburgh.

Janice Elliot's charming piece, *Psychedelic Symphony* had three violins playing by themselves mid air in the dark, and was commended in the CentrePort Illumination Illusion® Section. "Life is like a symphony and they were designed to uplift the spirit," said the Christchurch technician.

1900 pieces of Formica were glued together to create *Behind Closed Doors*, runner up in the Gen-i Creative Excellence Section - Fold. Kathryn Preston, a Christchurch interior designer made the giant fan which opened up to reveal a female face, with Angie Robinson. The pair wanted to use a common kitchen bench staple to celebrate the housewife, "Often kept from view by the demands of appearing organised and happy as a perfect mother and/or wife." Coming second in such a challenging section was a great achievement for the first time entrants.

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 with a total audience of nearly 40,000 people.

 *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.