



- For Immediate Release –

**Canadian Art heavyweights weigh in  
“The arts in Canada – where next?” during  
Salt Spring National Art Prize opening weekend  
September 26, 2015**

*Prestigious who's who of Canadian art to direct the spotlight on the future of the arts...*

**Salt Spring Island, BC, July 7, 2015** - Five prominent Canadian artists will provide their insights on the role of the arts in Canada during a panel titled, “**The arts in Canada – where next?**” The event takes place during the inaugural weekend launch of the Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) on September 26. The esteemed panellists come from a diversity of disciplines and will meet to discuss the arts in society, individual artistic development, training of emerging artists, public support and funding for the arts, and prospects for young artists in Canada in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The five panellists consist of:

Oscar winner for set decoration, **Jim Erickson**

Author and finalist for Governor General's Award for fiction, **Kathy Page**

Artist, author and curator, **Jeffrey Spalding**

Prima Ballerina, Director/Producer, Filmmaker, & Author, **Veronica Tennant**

Artistic Director, Pacific Opera Victoria, **Timothy Vernon**

Event spokesperson and a member of the Steering and Executive Committees for SSNAP, Janet Halliwell, says all the panellists bring a unique depth of knowledge and unparalleled experience to the table. “In addressing the state of the arts and culture in Canada, it's paramount we seek an enlightened understanding of the health of the arts and what is working and what is not working. We need to understand the trajectory of the arts in Canada, and how best to get there; for that reason we could not have chosen a better panel to catalyze discussion.”

The conversation will also address direct actions and initiatives that can be undertaken to make the most difference in the Canadian art environment. “The arts in Canada – where next” takes place at ArtSpring, Salt Spring's centre for

the arts, at 7:30pm, on Saturday, September 26. Tickets will be on sale through the ArtSpring ticket centre: <http://artspring.ca/ticketcentre/> and at Salt Spring Books.

**Media Advisory:**

On July 14, SSNAP will announce the names of the 50 finalists for the inaugural Salt Spring National Art Prize. Over 800 artists in Canada submitted over 1,367 works. Up until the announcement on July 14, the names of the artists have been anonymous to the jury.

**SSNAP key dates:**

July 14 - **Media announcement** - List of *finalists* named

September 25 – Opening **SSNAP 2015 Finalist Exhibition**

September 26 – “**The arts in Canada – where next?**”

October 4 – In and out of the box: Engaging in Contemporary Art

October 24 – Prize announcement and awards ceremony

October 26 – Exhibition closes

SSNAP will award \$10,000 plus a \$5,000 artist residency on Salt Spring Island to the artist who wins the top prize. Here is the prizing as follows:

- **Best in Show** receives the Joan McConnell Award of \$10,000, plus Salt Spring Artists residency to the value of \$5,000.
- **Juror’s Choice Awards**, three awards of \$1,000 selected by each juror.
- **ASA Award** (Alliance of Salt Spring Artists) \$1,000 for best Salt Spring artist.
- **Rosemarie Behncke People’s Choice Awards** with a 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of \$3,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of \$2,000 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of \$1,000.

**The Salt Spring National Art Prize Jurors are:**

1. **Vicky Chainey Gagnon** a contemporary art curator currently based in St John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador where she holds the position of director/chief curator of The Rooms, Provincial Art Gallery Division.
2. **Holger Kalberg** a Winnipeg based artist currently teaching at the University of Manitoba. Born in Germany, he first studied English literature before coming to Canada to study fine art at the Alberta College of Art and then at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, where he graduated in 2001.
3. **Ian Thomas** a long time member of the art community on Salt Spring Island. Educated in England and with a Master of Arts in Art Education from the University of British Columbia, Ian went on to teach at the University of British Columbia and Camosun College in Victoria.

**About SSNAP:**

To recognize, showcase and publicize the accomplishments of Canadian visual art, Salt Spring Island, BC has established the Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP), one of the few national, juried competitions in the country. In this inaugural year, SSNAP will be offering \$25,000 worth of awards, to be chosen by an independent jury from across Canada. This exciting endeavour is an initiative of the Salt Spring Arts Council, which represents the arts for Salt Spring Island, one of Canada's premier arts communities. Original works will be exhibited and for sale at historic Mahon Hall from September 25 through to October 26, 2015.

For more information about SSNAP, including the selection process, jury bios and event dates, please visit: <http://saltspringartprize.ca/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Salt-Spring-Natl-Art-Prize/426708080815585>  
Twitter: @SSArtPrize

For media requests for panellist bios, images and interviews, please contact Deirdre Rowland at C Me Communications.

– 30 –

Media Contact:  
Deirdre Rowland  
C Me Communications  
250-538-1107 Office  
778-888-9974 Mobile  
[media@cmepublicity.com](mailto:media@cmepublicity.com)