

MEDIA INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation to Present BC's Prestigious Visual Arts Prizes on September 24, 2019**

**The 2019 VIVA Award goes to Krista Belle Stewart  
The Balkind Curator's Prize goes to Bruce Grenville**

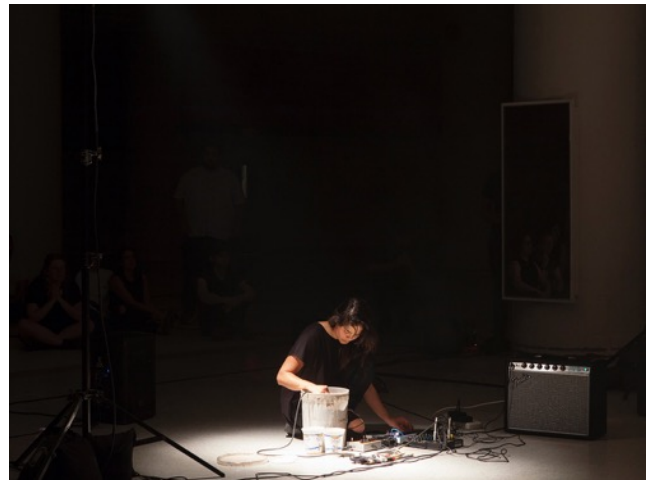


Image Credits: (Left): Installation view of *The Uncanny Experiments in Cyborg Culture*, exhibition curated by Bruce Grenville, Chief Curator, Vancouver Art Gallery, 2002, Photo: Courtesy of artists and the Vancouver Art Gallery; (Right): Krista Belle Stewart, *Potato Gardens Band* (site-specific live performance as part of *Stages: Drawing the Curtain*, Plug-In ICA, Winnipeg), 2017, contact microphones, guitar pedals and a bucket filled with ancestral land. Photo: Courtesy of the artists and Plug In ICA, Winnipeg

**September 24, Vancouver, BC** – At a special ceremony this evening, the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation will announce this year's recipients of the prestigious awards in this province: the **VIVA Awards** and the **Alvin Balkind Curator's Prize**. Two distinguished individuals working in the field of visual arts will be honoured: artist **Krista Belle Stewart** is the winner of the **VIVA Award** and curator **Bruce Grenville** is the recipient of the **Alvin Balkind Curator's Prize**, each receiving \$12,000 from the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts.

To mark this annual celebration, a public ceremony honouring the recipients will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, September 24** at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver.

**Statement by Greg Bellerby, Chair of the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation:**

This year marks the 31st year of the VIVA Awards and the 5th presentation of the bi-annual Alvin Balkind Curatorial Prize. On behalf of the Trustees I would like to congratulate Krista Belle Stewart, the recipient of the VIVA Award and Bruce Grenville, the recipient of the Alvin Balkind Prize. Their work exemplifies the high quality and creativity of visual art and curatorial production in British Columbia. We are also pleased to have critic and writer Max Wyman as our keynote speaker.

**About the recipients:**

**Krista Belle Stewart** has earned critical and curatorial acclaim for her probing, multi-disciplinary practice, which includes video, photography, textiles, sound, mixed-media installation, performance, and interventions on the land. She often works with archival images and museum materials, posing questions about the ways records of Indigenous life and culture have been framed and contextualized, both historically and institutionally. As observed by artist and curator Tania Willard, Stewart's installations and interventions "occupy the documentary to reveal...entanglements with the spaces of cultural production and exhibition." Through deep research and her employment of diverse but always relevant media and materials – whether video projections, abstract grids of colour, jacquard weaving, or a bucket of earth from her ancestral home – she re-examines the conditional nature of representation. She also pulls strands of personal and political narrative into a contemporary, decolonizing light.

Stewart has exhibited extensively, including at the Contemporary Art Gallery, the SFU Teck Gallery and Artspeak in Vancouver; Mercer Union and YYZ Artist Outlet in Toronto; Musée d'Art Contemporain and the Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery in Montreal; the Esker Foundation and the New Gallery in Calgary; Plug In ICA, Winnipeg; Independent Studio and Curatorial Program, New York; and the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin. She has also taken up residencies at the Nisga'a Museum in Laxgalts'ap (Greenville) in northern British Columbia and at Western Front, Vancouver. A member of the Upper Nicola Band of the Okanagan Nation in Douglas Lake, B.C., she is based in Vancouver, on the traditional lands of the Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam, and Skwxwu7mesh Nations.

Stewart holds a BFA from Emily Carr University and an MFA from the Milton Avery School of the Arts at Bard College, New York.

**Bruce Grenville**, who has been Senior Curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery since 1997, has built a remarkable body of professional work, characterized by the depth and breadth of its themes and its dedication to inclusiveness. Previous to his time at the VAG, he worked as an independent curator in Toronto, followed by stints as chief curator at the Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon and at the Edmonton Art Gallery (now the Art Gallery of Alberta), Edmonton. He has spoken about his curatorial practice in terms of doubt and criticality, particularly concerning dominant social and cultural narratives.

As is evident in his VAG exhibitions, Grenville especially challenges hierarchical distinctions between “high” and “low”, drawing his curatorial projects not only from the realm of contemporary visual art but also from the broader world of “visual culture.” His subjects range from architecture and design to new media, robotics, anime, manga, graphic novels, and video games.

During his tenure at the VAG, Grenville has been responsible for curating or co-curating an extraordinary range of exhibitions, including Cabin Fever, MashUp, Grand Hotel, KRAZY, Home and Away, The Uncanny, and Massive Change: The Future of Global Design. He has also organized numerous solo exhibitions by local, national, and international artists such as Stan Douglas, Janet Cardiff, Carol Sawyer, Michael Lin, Fiona Tan, Franz West, Wang Du, Gathie Falk, Dominique Blain, Arnaud Maggs, Christos Dikeakos, Ruth Cuthand, Mary Scott, and Jack Goldstein. Not incidentally, Grenville is the award-winning author of numerous exhibition catalogues, essays, feature articles, and review. He describes writing as “a way of coming to another understanding of the work.”

Grenville holds a B.A. (Honours) and M.A. in Art History from Queen’s University at Kingston.

Established in 1988, the **VIVA Awards** are funded by the **Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts**. The VIVA Awards were created to nurture the advancement of the visual arts in British Columbia and their appreciation by the public. Providing a minimum of \$12,000 annually, these awards celebrate exemplary achievement by British Columbia artists in mid-career, chosen for outstanding accomplishment and commitment by an independent jury. Provided through the generosity of the estate of **Abraham Rogatnick** to honour the memory of renowned Vancouver curator **Alvin Balkind**, the **Alvin Balkind Curator’s Prize** is a biannual award that recognizes outstanding innovation, original research and critical engagement through curatorial work in the visual arts.

**When: 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 24, 2019**

**Where: Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver (corner of 15th Avenue)**

**The Ceremony is free and open to the public.**