



April 15, 2021

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **107 ARTISTS APPLY FOR NEW YUKON PRIZE FOR VISUAL ARTS**

An astonishing 107 Yukon artists have applied for the new Yukon Prize for Visual Arts.

The good news was announced by Whitehorse resident Julie Jai, co-founder of the prize with her husband David Trick.

“The interest among Yukon artists has been overwhelming,” said Jai. “The volunteer organizing committee has been working for 18 months to create and promote this prize, and the response goes beyond all our expectations.”

The Yukon Prize for Visual Arts is a new private sector initiative which recognizes excellence by Yukon visual artists. The top prize is \$20,000, and five other finalists will receive \$2,000 each.

The applicants represent the wonderful diversity of Yukon visual arts and artists. About 40 per cent of applicants live outside of Whitehorse, representing many Yukon communities. The artists practice in a wide range of media, including painting, sculpture, photography, beading, installations, mixed media and more.

“This response is wonderful, and it shows how needed and relevant this prize is. I am so honoured to be part of the Yukon Prize jury,” said Gaëtane Verna, Director of The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto.

Verna is one of three renowned curators who will select the finalists and the winner of the Prize. The others are Ryan Doherty, Chief Curator of Contemporary Calgary, and Candice Hopkins, an internationally known independent curator, now based in the United States, who is a citizen of Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

The applications will now be turned over to the jury. In June, the jury will choose six finalists. All six finalists will be included in a curated group exhibition in Whitehorse at the Yukon Arts Centre Gallery this fall. A gala event to announce the top prize winner and celebrate Yukon visual arts is planned for the weekend of November 19-21, 2021 in Whitehorse.

“One of our goals is for Yukon artists to gain the national and international recognition they deserve,” said Trick. “We want to help bring Yukon art into the national dialogue about art. We hope that this prize will increase the opportunities for Yukon artists to show and sell their work outside the territory and increase awareness of the exceptional talent of Yukon artists.”

Complete information about the Yukon Prize can be found at [www.yukonprize.ca](http://www.yukonprize.ca)

MEDIA CONTACT: Julie Jai, 416-553-3315 ([info@yukonprize.ca](mailto:info@yukonprize.ca))