



Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation Nel Oudemans Award

Recognizing the pursuit of excellence in the fields of fine craft and design by emerging NB artisans

Nel Oudemans Award

Annually the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation offers a \$2,000 Award in honor of the extraordinary contribution of Fredericton weaver Nel Oudemans to Canada's applied arts field.

This Award recognizes the pursuit of excellence in the fields of fine craft and design by emerging New Brunswick artisans. It is intended to support creative growth of artists in the early stages of their careers.

In conjunction with the \$2,000 award, the recipient of the Nel Oudemans Award is eligible to be funded to participate in the SOFA Chicago Educational Mission, sponsored by the Craft Alliance and ACOA.

For more information and application forms, visit www.sheilahughmackay.com

Nel Oudmans Award Winners 2002-2015

2002: Nora Blanchard, metalsmith

2003: Danielle Hogan, sculptor

2006: Megan Billings, potter

2007: Shallon Gagnon & Sara Murphy, fashion designers

2008: Shanie Stozek, potter and photographer

2009: Kristyn Cooper, metalsmith

2010: Bronwyn Gallagher, weaver

2011: Christian Demmings, metalsmith

2012: Monica Lacey, multimedia

2014: Allison Green, multimedia

2015: Philip Savage, wood

Bio: Nel Blink Oudemans (1918-2002)

In 2002, the Nel Oudemans Award was established by the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation to honor Oudemans's tireless support for emerging artisans. This juried award has grown in value and prestige. In 2015, the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation received a significant donation from the New Brunswick Foundation for the Arts to continue its work in honoring a great Canadian artist through the continued mentorship of young talents.

A leading figure in the Canadian Maritime Craft Renaissance of the 1970's, Nel Oudemans's personal journey to artistic excellence was marked by determination in the face of great adversity. Born in The Hague, Oudemans dedicated her early years to study. She was classically trained as a tapestry weaver and embroiderer at the prestigious Sätergläntan Weaving School in Sweden and the Karen Prestard Studio in Heidel, Norway. The Nazi occupation of her homeland demanded great personal sacrifice and her artistic career was interrupted by the upheaval of World War II. In 1947, she and her husband left war-ravaged Europe to embrace an uncertain future in Canada. Settling in Fredericton with her husband, Jack, Oudemans devoted herself to raising a young family but quickly became a noted resource in the artistic community.

Her knowledge and devotion to the history and tradition of craft sparked a renewed appreciation for weaving in the local artistic community. Working through the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, she became a beloved teacher and mentor. In later years, her home studio was equally a place of creation, instruction, mentorship and encouragement.

Oudemans worked tirelessly to establish the Christmas Choice Exhibitions and Sales at UNB's Memorial Hall. Her signature hand woven wool and linen tapestries, coverlets, tablecloths and blankets inspired a new generation of Canadian fiber artists. Her knowledge of traditional patterns and techniques made her a nationally recognized



This portrait of Nel Oudemans by James Wilson celebrated her selection as a Strathbutler artist in 1995.

Image of 1978 blanket above courtesy of New Brunswick Museum.

Works by Nel Oudemans can be enjoyed at NBM's Strathbutler collection.

resource. Of note was her work at Kings Landing Historical site, where she was the technical advisor on the assembly of looms as well as creator of coverlets using historically accurate patterns and techniques. As noted by Charlotte Glencross at the opening of a retrospective exhibition in 1999, "Her work is a technical tour de force." Dorothy Burnham, Curator of Textiles at the Royal Ontario Museum described Oudemans as, "one of the most gifted artists in this part of the world."

Her tireless mentorship, her mastery of traditional patterns and her innovative design work were recognized through many awards:

1978 Best in Show Juried Biennale of the New Brunswick Craft Council

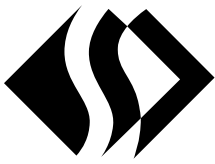
1987 Honorary Member of New Brunswick Craft Council

1989 Award of Excellence Mactaquac Craft Festival

1991 Fellow of New Brunswick College of Craft and Design

1995 Kjeld and Erica Deichman Award for Excellence in Craft

1995 Strathbutler Award for Excellence and Significant Contribution to Visual Arts



Philip Savage Chosen for 2015 Nel Oudemans Award



2015 Nel Oudemans Award winner Philip Savage in his studio.

At right is a piece by Mr. Savage titled 'River Desk'.

See more of Phil's work at the New Brunswick Fine Craft Festival July 10-12th.

Kingston resident, Philip Savage has been selected as the 2015 recipient of the Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation "Nel Oudemans Award" recognizing the pursuit of excellence in the field of fine craft and design by emerging New Brunswick artisans. A sculptor in wood as well as a landscape horticulturist, Mr. Savage creates both functional and sculptural works drawing inspiration from nature. He celebrates a medium that has been crafted by human hands for function, beauty and ceremony since primitive times.

Mr. Savage will be presented with the \$2000 Nel Oudemans Award at the New Brunswick Fine Craft Festival and Gala "From Human Hands" to be held on July 10th at the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal, Saint John, New Brunswick.



Tickets and information available through New Brunswick Craft Council events@nbcraftscouncil.ca

Sheila Hugh Mackay Foundation expresses gratitude to the following members of the selection committee for their professional assistance: Maegan Black, Director of Canadian Craft Federation; Weaver and sculptor, Jesse Davies; Strathbutler artist, Susan Vida Judah; and Peter Laroque, N.B. Museum's Curator of N.B. Cultural History and Art.

Allison Green, 2014 Nel Oudemans Award Winner, Reports on Her Experience at The SOFA Chicago Educational Mission



Winners of the Nel Oudemans Award are eligible to participate in the Atlantic Craft Alliance educational mission to Chicago. SOFA CHICAGO is the world-renowned art fair dedicated to Sculpture, Objects, Functional Art and Design held at Navy Pier's Festival Hall.

Says Green, "Until you directly experience art on such a grand scale, you don't really know how far you can go. In this way SOFA raised up the

ceiling on what I will accomplish. I am perhaps most stunned to discover that the creativity, the heart of the work, is the same quality here in NB as in these world-class galleries. It is the impeccable finishing and presentation, the sheer volume of hours devoted to the work, that really makes these international artists stand out. It is so clear what I need to work on from here."



Above: Allison Green at "Cloud Gate", Chicago's signature public sculpture at Millennium Park. Above left: Green exhibits new work in Moncton NB.



SHMF is proud to sponsor the New Brunswick Craft Council's 2015 Year of Craft celebrations.

A retrospective of Nel Oudemans Award winners will be presented during the New Brunswick Fine Craft Festival and Gala "From Human Hands" to be held on July 10th at the Marco Polo Cruise Terminal, Saint John.

A special exhibit of works by Nel Oudemans will be on display at the New Brunswick Museum in July.



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The generosity of many has extended SHMF's ability to fund awards and programs. Visit www.sheilahughmackay.com for more information.

You can help the foundation to continue its support of emerging artisans through donations. We are a registered Canadian charity. Your contribution may be claimed as a charitable deduction on income tax.