

THE GREAT WHITE NORTH EXHIBITION

THE 12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION OF JEWELLERY INSPIRED BY AND MADE IN CANADA

IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT WE, AS A NATION, ARE ASKED TO REFLECT ON THOSE QUESTIONS

that strike at the heart of who we are. An election year provided the platform, but the result - a political upset many had begun to fear would never come - was indicative of a new answer, or perhaps a reimagining of the question.

WHAT VALUES MATTER MOST TO CANADIANS?

WHAT COURSE SHOULD THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION TAKE?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CANADIAN?

When we think of national identity, it is often in rigid, static terms. A historical monolith that looks to the past to explain or perhaps even excuse the present and ultimately the future - *the way things are and always should be*. The response is often trite, laden with superficial symbols and generic, meaningless adjectives: **Canadians' are nice and polite and love hockey and maple syrup**. If we are pressed to look deeper, our gaze lingers on our neighbours and colonizers for inspiration, we try to align our values and our beliefs alongside those that are distinctly American, British or French - countries with identities and cultures that we believe to be wholly unique. We create institutions and adopt ideologies imported from these countries perhaps in an attempt to fit in, or more likely, to have absolute terms from which to define ourselves. Maybe being just like the others is easier than being something else entirely.

What does it mean to be Canadian?

We struggle with this question perhaps, because it is often designed to make us think of ourselves in terms of division and ultimately alienation - who is and who is not one of us.

When we are asked the question, it is often made with the assumption that there must be a clear and concise answer and when there is not, we stumble into a view of ourselves as seen from the outside.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CANADIAN?

TO BE A CITIZEN OF ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST CULTURALLY DIVERSE COUNTRIES TO EVER EXIST?

A YOUNG COUNTRY BUT WITH AN ABORIGINAL HISTORY THAT PREDATES IT BY MILLENNIA?

Our story is unlike any other.

Defining what it means to be Canadian means confronting a cultural and historical trajectory that is both overlapping and intertwining, one with boundless beginnings and no end in sight.

Countries and cultures, like the individual people who inhabit them, evolve as they age, as they encounter the world and the people found within; as our perspective on life and ourselves shifts from experience to experience. Some will resist it, some will even fight it, but the change is inevitable. How do we define something that is constantly shifting? Should we attempt to define it at all?

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THE FIRST EUROPEANS TO SETTLE THIS COUNTRY WERE BOTH POOR AND ILL-EQUIPPED

this country was their last and best hope for a chance at a better life. But they were unprepared for the wilderness they would encounter - for the climate, the wildlife and the terrain - and it was not long before they began to question their survival. The First Nations People they met did not view society through a racial lens; creating social hierarchies based on place of birth or purity of blood was a foreign import. They viewed society as a complex living organism, one that expanded and adapted to each new people who joined; to them, these new settlers were just another part of that ecosystem. They taught the Europeans how to dress, how to hunt and how to survive and together they would create Canada's first and most important industry: the fur trade.

It involved complex cultural negotiations, cultural inclusivity and fluidity of the likes found nowhere before and all too rarely since. At our best, we have embraced and preserved the diversity responsible for building a nation that was and continues to be built by many people from many places. We have offered a home to those seeking it, regardless of race, religion, culture or language - not because we demanded assimilation in exchange, but because we understood that difference does not necessarily mean division.

But from our brightest hopes have come some of the darkest stains on our history.

We have forgotten and we have fought the very evolution and inclusivity responsible for the country we call home. We have clung to an absolute and unwavering definition of what it means to be Canadian and we have excluded, subjugated and mistreated those we deemed to be not-like-us. We have interned, turned away and systematically tried to eliminate those we feared, those who did not fit our definition of what it means to be Canadian - those others. We have met images of pleading, desperate eyes with resentment, fear and disdain. When we have feared our country's evolution, feared it changing from something we think it is or think it should be, we have become the worst version of ourselves.

IN FLUX is an exhibition that asks artist to confront, critique and challenge the concept of Canada's national identity. Artists must ask themselves what it means to be Canadian and thus create a piece that demands the same from the viewer/wearer. Explore the concept of cultural fluidity in historical, present or future terms, perhaps through a personal or familial lens. Who are we, where have we been and who do we hope to become?

Vanessa Laurin
vanessa@18karat.ca
EXHIBITION CURATOR

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GREAT WHITE NORTH : an informal, colloquial name given to the country of Canada. It is a phrase that has often been used to describe Canada in its simplest terms, referencing a specific climate or landscape. This annual exhibition aims to take a deeper look at the Canadian identity - our history, our culture, our stories; to redefine the phrase the Great White North in a manner that reflects our multi-faceted and constantly evolving identity.

18KARAT STUDIO + GALLERY IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE 2016 GREAT WHITE NORTH EXHIBITION - an exhibition dedicated to showcasing the best in contemporary Canadian jewellery. Pieces included in the exhibition are made specifically, inspired by a particular theme, chosen every year to represent a facet of Canada - an exhibition of jewellery inspired by and made in Canada. Each piece within this exhibition will be presented before a jury of peers, multidisciplinary artists and designers who will be given the task of choosing those pieces that best represent the epitome of contemporary Canadian jewellery - both in technical abilities and design innovation.

THEME 2016 - IN FLUX

IN FLUX is an exhibition that asks artist to confront, critique and challenge the concept of Canada's national identity. Artists must ask themselves what it means to be Canadian and thus create a piece that demands the same from the viewer/wearer. Explore the concept of cultural fluidity in historical, present or future terms, perhaps through a personal or familial lens. Artists are invited to submit up to two pieces that seek to answer the question : who are we, where have we been and who do we hope to become?

EXHIBITION DATES + VENUES

MUSÉE DES MAÎTRES ET ARTISANS DU QUÉBEC

SEPTEMBER 07 - OCTOBER 16, 2016
615 avenue Sainte-Croix
Montréal, Québec, H4L 3X6

18KARAT STUDIO + GALLERY

NOVEMBER 01 - DECEMBER 17, 2016
1156 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 2L9

INCLUDE:

- All submissions must be accompanied by an artist statement that demonstrates the link between and the inspiration behind the work and theme. Please limit statements to 500 words or less. Artists are encouraged to include any images that support the theme or statement.
- Completed Entry Form + Entry Fee
- Prepaid Return Shipping Mailer (see submission requirements)

All items submitted will be judged on the following criteria:

Craftsmanship and Technical Abilities - all submissions must be wearable jewellery pieces, constructed to the highest standards.

Design - all submissions will be judged on the basis of their design innovation and how well the concept is integrated into the overall design.

Concept - all submissions must be new jewellery items created specifically for this exhibition, based on the exhibition's theme. Items will be judged by how well the artist interpreted the theme and incorporated it into the final piece.

Please read the following submission guidelines closely. If you have any questions please contact the exhibition curator Vanessa Laurin at vanessa@18karat.ca

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES - TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016 at 5.30pm.

- 1) Entrants must be metal artists currently living and working in Canada.
- 2) The submitted works must be original pieces made by the artist based on the exhibition's theme. Work must have been created for the purposes of this exhibition and must have been completed after March 1, 2016. Work that has been submitted into previous exhibitions or that appear on the artist's website or social media, prior to being accepted into the exhibition, will be immediately disqualified. This exhibition aims to showcase a curated collection of fine jewellery that does not appear anywhere else - previous exhibitions and promotional campaigns included. Anything believed to compromise this mandate could lead to the piece to be removed from the exhibition. (This does not apply to students submitting a piece created as a school project or graduate exhibition).
- 3) Entrants may submit up to two pieces per entry; only one entry fee required. They must be wearable jewellery pieces.
- 4) Each entry must be accompanied with a title for each piece, a completed entry form, and an artist statement that explains how each piece reflects this year's exhibition's theme - IN FLUX. Entrants should include a printed copy of each, as well as an electronic version on a CD, USB stick, or Dropbox link (preferable). If the piece(s) are multi-functioning, please include photographs to illustrate the concept.
- 5) Artists whose pieces are accepted for the exhibition grant permission for their work to be photographed and by submitting work, the artist grants 18Karat the right to use such photographs for the purposes of promoting and publicizing the exhibition and 18Karat.
- 6) All entries must be reasonably priced and available for sale. For items sold during the exhibition, the artist will receive 50% of the retail price and the artist shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Exhibition by 18Karat. Should a piece be sold, the artist may be asked to replace the piece with something comparable.
- 7) While on 18Karat's premises, the work will be at 18Karat's risk. In the event of damage to the work, compensation will be limited to the reasonable cost of repair. In the event of loss or theft, the artist shall receive the applicable consignment percentage as if the piece had been purchased.

FEE: A non-refundable fee of \$25 must accompany each entry in the form of a cheque made out to 18Karat or an INTERAC e-transfer sent to vanessa@18karat.ca

Packaging Instructions:

Entries must be received with the artist's contact information, artist's statement, completed entry form, entry fee (entry fee may also be sent via e-transfer) and a CD or USB drive with digital copies of the above (artists may also submit work via Dropbox sent to vanessa@18karat.ca). Artists must provide a PREPAID Canada Post Shipping label with bubble mailer, a PREPAID Canada Post XPresspost cushion envelope, or FEDEX account information for the return shipment of their work (For regional and national pre-paid envelopes, visit : <https://www.canadapost.ca/shop/envelopes/xpresspost-tm-prepaid.jsf?execution=e1s1>) **Please do not send stamps, rigid or paper envelopes, or cheques for return shipping.** 18Karat accepts no responsibility for work damaged, improperly packed or lost during shipping to or from 18Karat. Insure as required. Arrangements are required for dropping off and return pieces in person - please contact Vanessa Laurin, vanessa@18karat.ca if you wish to hand deliver your piece to 18Karat.

Deadlines:

Mailed or courier for delivery on or before **August 2, 2016**. 18Karat is not responsible for late deliveries, please allow for shipping and delivery delays. Ship to:
18Karat Attn: Vanessa Laurin, 1156 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 2L9.

Awards to be presented, in both general and student categories:

Best in Show (in general category only)
Best in Technical Achievement
Best in Design
Best use of Theme

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ENTRY FORM

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES - TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016

- Print clearly and retain copies for your records.
- Payment must accompany entry and entry form.
- Please use one entry form for each entry.
- Please include a printed copy of the completed entry form(s) with the entry as well as an electronic copy (USB, CD or Dropbox link).

ARTIST'S NAME _____

ARTIST'S EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ARTIST'S ADDRESS _____

ARTIST'S PHONE NUMBER _____

TITLE OF WORK _____

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY _____

METAL TYPE _____

GEMSTONE SIZE, WEIGHT _____

RETAIL PRICE _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A FULL-TIME JEWELLERY PROGRAM? YES NO

ARE YOU A RECENT GRADUATE FROM A FULL TIME JEWELLERY PROGRAM? YES NO

(WITHIN THE LAST YEAR)

IF YES, THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL YOU ARE ATTENDING / RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM

COMPLETION DATE OF ITEM : _____

ENTRY FEE PAYMENT METHOD: CHEQUE INTERAC E-TRANSFER
(SELECT ONE)

COMMENTS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

SHIPPING METHOD: _____

BY SUBMITTING AN ENTRY AND ENTRY FORM YOU HAVE AGREED TO THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED IN THE PREVIOUS PAGE.