

**Media Advisory
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2014**

Edmonton Arts Council Recognizes 2013 Arts Award Recipients

The Edmonton Arts Council is hosting a recognition event for the 2013 recipients of **the Cultural Diversity in the Arts** and the **Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund** awards. Presenters include Mayor Don Iveson and Martin Garber-Conrad, CEO of the Edmonton Community Foundation.

When: January 27, 6:30-9:00 p.m. (awards presentation to take place 7:00-7:30 p.m.)

What: Awards presentation and reception, media photo opportunity

Where: Timms Centre for the Arts, University of Alberta

"The City of Edmonton strives to support and celebrate artistic creativity in all its dimensions," said Paul Moulton, Executive Director of the Edmonton Arts Council. "The Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund and Cultural Diversity in the Arts awards recognize the artistic achievements of the incredibly talented writers, filmmakers, musicians, actors, performers, visual and media artists who call Edmonton home."

The **Cultural Diversity in the Arts** program provides awards of \$7,500 to encourage and support individual Edmonton artists from diverse cultural backgrounds. The recipients in this program come to Edmonton from countries around the world, and demonstrate a strong dedication to continuing their artistic practice in their new home.

The **Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund** provides awards of \$7,500 to encourage artists to stay in our community. The funds are intended to offset living and working expenses, allowing artists to devote a concentrated period of time to their artistic activities, career enhancement and/or development. The award is available to artists at any stage of their professional career.

Recipients of the 2013 Cultural Diversity in the Arts Award:

For more detailed artist profiles, see: <http://grants.edmontonarts.ca/2013%20CDA%20recipients/>

Ahmed "Knowmadic" Ali is a Somali-born Canadian poet, writer, actor and comedian. He is the co-founder of Breath in Poetry Collective and the founder of Edmonton Youth Poetry.

Raimundo Gonzalez is a composer from Santiago, Chile. He studied composition, classical piano and jazz guitar performance in Santiago and holds a Master's in Music Composition from the University of Alberta.

Ljubomir Ilic began his visual arts practice in Knin (Former Yugoslavia), where was working as an Engineer Constructor Designer. Since moving to Canada, Ljubomir has exhibited at the Nina Haggerty, the Art Gallery of Alberta and the Stanley Milner Library Gallery.

André Mestre is a composer born in Sorocaba, Brazil. He is currently working on his first album, *The Sorrowful Mysteries: Five Parametric Etudes* for the saxophone with Edmonton saxophonist Allison Balcetis.

Tololwa M. Mollel is the author of over 17 internationally published children's books. He is currently working on a collaborative theatrical production series called *Story House*.

Oksana Movchan is a visual artist and printmaker born in Kyiv, Ukraine. Educated at the Ukrainian National Art School and the Ukrainian Academy of Art, she has exhibited nationally and internationally, including solo exhibitions in Toronto, Houston, and Hong Kong.

Mahdi Neahmah hails from Iraq and holds a Masters in Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Plastic Arts from the Baghdad University. He has worked as a college lecturer in drawing, and as departmental head of Design & Drawing at the Institute for the Building Trades in Benghazi, Libya.

Lukas Zapata is a media artist and filmmaker from Medellin, Colombia. He studied Communication and Audiovisual Languages at the University of Medellin then moved to Canada following his graduation in 2012.

Chakanaka Zinyemba is an up-and coming musician and an art entrepreneur. A graduate of the University of Alberta, he plays the mbira, a traditional instrument from the Shona people of Zimbabwe.

Recipients of the 2013 Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund Awards:

For more detailed artist profiles, see: <http://grants.edmontonarts.ca/2013%20EATF%20recipients/>

Lyle Bell is a multi-instrumentalist and song crafter who plays in Shout Out Out Out Out, The Wet Secrets and Whitey Houston. Lyle is also a graphic designer and an avid photographer.

Mark Davis is a musician, presenter, instructor and art curator. He is a founding member of roots-rock experimentalists Old Reliable and is the musical force behind gothic-dance-rock duo Concealer.

Brenda Malkinson is a visual artist and since 1979 has pursued a career as a full time professional artist involved with contemporary architectural stained glass, drawing and woodblock printmaking.

Mary Christa O'Keefe has written professionally for almost 15 years. Her background includes writing for print publications and their online counterparts locally and beyond, with an emphasis on culture, music, and visual arts coverage.

Isabelle Rousseau is an actress, playwright and movement artist. She's been on stage recently in the *National Elevator Project*, *Sartre's Shorts* and *Testament* and is the current artist-in-residence at L'UniThéâtre, creating new works for children and adults and participating in all of the creative activities of the company.

Jill Stanton is an artist with a BFA in Printmaking and Drawing from the University of Alberta. Currently, she is focusing on large-scale mural and environmental projects, as well as a comic book series based on dream imagery and hallucinations, entitled *Headspaces*.

More information about the Edmonton Arts Council's Awards Programs can be found at: grants.edmontonarts.ca

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The Edmonton Arts Council is a non-profit society and charitable organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. The EAC works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of our community life.

Media Contact:

Jenna Turner
Communications Officer
780-424-2787 ext 239
jturner@edmontonarts.ca