

For Immediate Release

ALUMNA COLLEEN HESLIN NAMED NATIONAL WINNER OF THE 15TH ANNUAL RBC CANADIAN PAINTING COMPETITION

Sixth Alumni in Nine Years to Be Awarded Prestigious Honour

Vancouver, CAN, October 3, 2013 | Emily Carr University of Art + Design is pleased to announce that alumna [Colleen Heslin](#) (2003), has been named the national winner of the distinguished \$25,000 [RBC Canadian Painting Competition](#) for her work, *Almost young, wild and free*. Heslin's work was selected from over 500 entries submitted by artists across the country.

Established in 1999, the RBC Canadian Painting Competition, with the support of the Canadian Art Foundation, is a unique initiative to help nurture and support promising new artists in the early stages of their careers; a time when they need both recognition and financial support.

This year, five Emily Carr alumni were nominated. Representing Western Canada: Brian Kokoska ('10), Rachelle Sawatsky ('05), Sean Weisgerber ('09) along with Colleen Heslin ('03). And representing Central Canada, [Colin Muir Dorward](#) ('07), who takes home one of two \$15,000 Honourable Mention prizes. In celebration of the 15th anniversary of the competition, each of the finalists will also be awarded \$5,000.

The University has a history of successful recipients; this is the second year in which alumni have won both first place and honourable mention. In 2011, the awards went to Rebecca Brewer ('07), and Deirdre McAdams ('08), respectively. Other recipients include in 2009 Brenda Draney ('09); 2008 Jeremy Hof ('08); 2007 Arabella Campbell ('02) and 2005 Etienne Zack ('00).

The RBC Canadian Painting Competition provides artists with an opportunity to showcase their work to the community at large and gives the public a view of current contemporary painting across the country. Along with past winners, Heslin and Dorward's paintings will become part of RBC's Canadian art collection, composed of more than 4,000 works of distinguished art collected over the past hundred years. The University is grateful to RBC for their continued support of the arts.

All works by the 15 finalists are on display at Ottawa's [National Gallery of Canada](#) through October 13, with another exhibition slated for the Art Toronto Fair October 24 – 28, 2013.



About Emily Carr University of Art + Design

Emily Carr University of Art + Design, established in 1925, is a world leader in education and research. Encouraging experimentation at the intersection of art, design, media and technology, our learning community merges research, critical theory and studio practice in an interdisciplinary environment. Alumni and faculty are internationally recognized as award-winning creators and thought leaders who have enormous impact on both the cultural sector and economy. We engage students, industry, and society to continuously explore and think differently about creativity and how it shapes our world. Emily Carr is building a state-of-the art campus for 21st century learning at Great Northern Way. The University will be at the centre of a new social, cultural, educational, and economic engine for British Columbia. Find out more at ecuad.ca.

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