

January 4, 2017



## Takao Tanabe establishes new prize for BC painters

Jon Tupper, Director of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria announced today that the inaugural Tanabe Prize for British Columbia painters has been awarded to Vancouver artist Philippe Raphanel. Established by artist, Takao Tanabe, the prize will be presented to Raphanel at a reception at Emily Carr University in Vancouver on January 13.

The Tanabe Prize is a new annual award given to artists whose primary medium is painting and who are residents of British Columbia. In addition to being painters, recipients must be mid-career artists. Mid-career is defined as an artist who has produced an independent body of work over a number of years and has received regional or national recognition through publication or exhibition of his or her work.

"I wanted the prize to recognize an artist in British Columbia, where I have lived and worked for most of my life," said Takao Tanabe, "and recognize someone mid-career, when an artists work is often overlooked."

Artists are selected by contemporary art curators who are connected to art museums and galleries in British Columbia. Selection is based on exceptional creativity coupled with a promise of future achievements. Names of the selectors are kept confidential. There is no application process for either the curators or artists. The Tanabe Prize for BC Painters is a cash award in the amount of \$7,500, and is administered by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

Takao Tanabe was born in Prince Rupert and currently lives on Vancouver Island. He studied at the Winnipeg School of Art and the Brooklyn Museum Art School with Hans Hoffmann, Central School of Art in London with Ikuo Hirayama and Yanagida Taiun in Tokyo. Tanabe's painting reflects his interest in abstraction and the landscape.

Philippe Raphanel is a Vancouver based painter born and raised in Paris, France, he came to Canada after receiving his diploma in Fine Arts from École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués in Paris in 1978. His work has been exhibited extensively in British Columbia, across Canada and in the United States.

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