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Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
1040 Moss Street
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 4P1
250.384.4171 aggv.ca

Media Contact:
Sandra Hudson
tel. 250-216-1380
media@aggv.ca

Robin Hodgson and Amy Modahl win Takao Tanabe prize for BC painters

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria announced today that the 7th Annual Tanabe Prize for British Columbia painters has been awarded to two artists; Robin Hodgson and Amy Modahl.

The Tanabe Prize is an annual award given to artists whose primary medium is painting and who are residents of British Columbia. Robin Hodgson was chosen for the prize as an emerging artist and Amy Modahl was chosen for the prize as a mid-career artist.

Canadian artist, Robin Hodgson (b.1984) lives in Kamloops, BC, where he currently works from his downtown studio. Robin's art practice includes his work in painting and sculpture, as well as his efforts in promoting the development of the emerging art scene in his community. As the result of a motor vehicle accident Robin has been a C5/C6 quadriplegic since the age of 19. As each spinal cord injury is unique to the individual, Robin's injury presents him with partial movement in his arms. Although he has no finger movement or tricep function, his biceps and limited wrist flexion allow him enough mobility to continue drawing and painting with the assistance of the adaptive tools he's created. Hodgson holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC (2013). Through 2022 Robin had solo exhibitions at the Kamloops Art Gallery, (KAG) "Sailing Pretty Close to the Wind" and at Crack Gallery, "Race Night" in Vancouver. He participated in a group show at the Salmon Arm Arts Centre, "After Vivian Lindoe," was published in Akimbo.ca and saw two of his paintings go into permanent collections.

About Hodgson's selection for the Tanabe Prize, the committee said, "Hodgson creates conceptual paintings where the process and the outcome are equally important, and he often experiments with new devices and tools to paint beyond the scale of his own body movements. Working from a wheelchair, he has invented and adapted a number of tools to overcome his mobility restrictions, with the additional help of his assistants. His continued experimentation aims to develop a painting style unique to his disability, while expanding on the already existing history of notable artists within the disabled Community."

The content of Robin's work explores the physical and psychological experience of post-able body life, reminding us all that we're only (TABs) temporarily able bodies.

Amy Modahl was born in Minnesota and raised in Wisconsin before coming to Vancouver to live in the year 2000. Then in 2010 she relocated to the BC interior. Her practice includes painting, drawing, stop-motion animation, and performance. Modahl has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions including at the Kamloops Art Gallery, Kamloops, BC; Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC; the Alternator Centre, Kelowna, BC; Wallace Galleries, Calgary, AB; Stride Gallery, Calgary, AB; Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC; and Soo Visual Art Center, Minneapolis, MN. She has an Interdisciplinary Masters of Fine Art in Visual Art from the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus, Kelowna, BC; a Masters in Applied Linguistics from Northern Arizona University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art, Art History, and Spanish from St. Cloud State in

Minnesota. Modahl is on faculty at Okanagan College, Vernon Campus with the Communications Department.

Of Modahl's work the selection committee said, "Amy Modahl's paintings integrate her range of skills and aptitudes with drawing, stop-motion animation, performance and social practice. Her paintings communicate abstract forms with a deep knowledge of colour and tone. Integrating her degree in Applied Linguistics, Modahl interweaves explorations of the vocabulary of space, visual-translation, and human and material gesture into her visual language. A mid-career artist, Modahl maintains a honed daily studio practice, but her approach to painting has also included community participation that responds to collective experiences and current issues."

Artists are selected for the Tanabe Prize 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 \$15,000 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, the Brooklyn Museum Art School and the Tokyo University of Fine Arts amongst others. Tanabe has received many honours throughout his career, including being named a member of the Order of Canada in 1999, receiving the Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts in 2013, as well as a Doctor of Letters (Hon) from Vancouver Island University, 2014 and a Doctor of Letters (Hon), from Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design, 2000. Tanabe's painting reflects his interest in abstraction and the landscape.

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria sits on the unceded and traditional territory of the *ləkʷəŋən* -speaking peoples, today known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and WSÁNEĆ First Nations.