

## Liz Magor wins Audain Prize

Kevin Griffin  
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Artist Liz Magor and her work *Sleeping Rough*, at Equinox Gallery.  
Photograph by: Glenn Baglo, Vancouver Sun

Sculptor Liz Magor is the winner of the sixth annual Audain Prize, the biggest award in visual arts in B.C.

Magor will be presented with \$30,000 in an awards ceremony Monday, May 11 at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Previous winners have included Jeff Wall, Gordon Smith and Ann Kipling.

The Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts is funded by the Audain Foundation and granted annually to a senior British Columbia artist.

"I am always looking for comfort in a world disturbingly subject to change," Magor wrote about her work in 1999. "Sometimes I find it in work, as a recording of my activity. Sometimes I find it in objects, things that sit still for a while and slowly gather, then release, their history."

One of Magor's local public art works is LightShed, a half-size aluminum replica of an old boat house of the kind once found on local shorelines. Supported by barnacle-encrusted piers, LightShed is on the seawall by Harbour Green Park in Coal Harbour.

Since her first solo exhibition in 1977, Magor has established an international reputation in shows around the world. She represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 1984 and Documenta VIII in Kassel, Germany in 1987. In 2001, she received the Governor General's Award for Visual Arts. Magor teaches at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

Also on Wednesday, the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation announced that Vancouver artists Kathy Slade and Mark Soo are the 2009 recipients of the VIVA Award. Each recipient will receive \$12,000.

A graduate of Simon Fraser University, Slade works in several media including video, photography, embroidery and sculpture. One of her works is currently on display as part of the How Soon is Now Exhibition at the VAG: Black Pom-pom is a waist-high black pom-pom displayed on the gallery floor on the second level.

Soo, a graduate of Emily Carr, has shown in New York and Toronto and was the focus of a solo exhibition at Artspeak in 2006. Last year, the VAG purchased That's That's Alright Alright Mama Mama. For the photo-based work, Soo recreated the studio where Elvis Presley recorded That's Alright Mama, considered one of the first rock 'n' roll songs, and photographed it using 1950s 3-D technology. He has an audio-based work in the group exhibition How Soon Is Now Contemporary Art From Here.

The VIVA Awards are presented annually to celebrate exemplary achievement by British Columbia artists in mid-career.

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