

# Four Calgary artists honoured with Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Awards

By Heath McCoy,  
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*Calgary painter/sculptor Chris Millar was one of eight Alberta artists awarded a Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Award, in Edmonton on June 14, 2012.*

*Photograph by: Ted Jacob, Calgary Herald*

As one of four Calgary-based artists who received a prestigious Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Award today at a ceremony in Edmonton, theatre director Eric Rose was not just elated for himself – he was also feeling proud of his community.

“This says something really great,” said the co-artistic director of Ghost River Theatre, interviewed in advance of the ceremony. “It says that the arts are flourishing in this province, and especially in Calgary. There’s something significant we’re doing.”

Other local artists to receive the award – which comes with a cheque for \$10,000 – included dancer/choreographer Naomi Brand, co-founder of Calgary Contemporary Dance Collective, acclaimed painter/sculptor Chris Millar and photographer/sculptor Kristopher Karklin, who divides his studio time between Calgary and Fort McMurray.

Among the other four winners was Lethbridge-based mezzo-soprano Emma Parkinson and children's author Diane Mae Robinson, from St. Paul, whose creation Sir Princess Petra shatters fairy tale princess stereotypes. Representing Edmonton at the ceremony was filmmaker Kyle Armstrong and hip-hop artist Mitch Holtby, a.k.a Mitchmatic.

As a young artist, Rose, 34, says he appreciates the recognition the award brings.

“Some people think you have to build it, a la Field of Dreams, and people will come,” Rose says. “But actually, you have to build it and then tweet about it and put it on Facebook and send a thousand e-mails off. Because it doesn't matter how good it is if people don't know about it. . . .

“This award helps people recognize what is actually happening in their communities. It's the big, heavy tweet.”

He adds: “It's important for us younger artists that this is recognized at such a high level. It gives us a clear sense of encouragement.”

Also encouraging, of course, is the financial reward.

“It's nice that an award like this is not just the philosophical pat on the back, Rose says. “It comes with a financial contribution. They're saying: ‘Not only do we believe in you, but here is some means and resources to actually push your practice even further.’”

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