



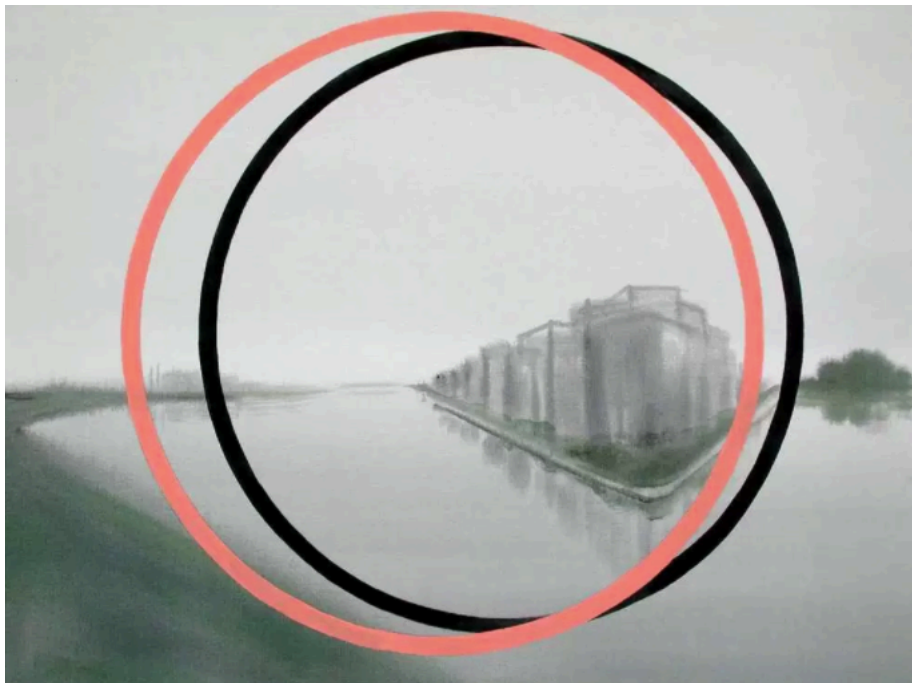
John Pohl, "Bill Vazan, Wanda Koop, Suzy Lake among winners of Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts," *Blouin ArtInfo*, March 18, 2016.



Bill Vazan, Wanda Koop, Suzy Lake among winners of Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts

JOHN POHL, SPECIAL TO MONTREAL GAZETTE

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"Sightlines - Untitled," by Wanda Koop

Montreal's Bill Vazan is one of eight artists being recognized for their career achievements with a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, the Canada Council for the Arts announced Monday.



Winners with connections to Montreal include Wanda Koop of Winnipeg and Suzy Lake of Toronto.

The awards, which include cash prizes of \$25,000, will be presented by Governor General David Johnston in Ottawa on March 23.

Other winners include four Ontarians: photographer Edward Burtynsky, filmmaker Philip Hoffman, media artist Mark Lewis and curator Marnie Fleming. Jane Kidd, a textile artist from B.C., receives the Saidye Bronfman Award, given for the craft arts.

Koop's work has been widely seen on Montreal gallery walls. She was selected for Galerie de l'UQAM's Painting Project in 2013; her work is hanging in the Her Story Today: Six Painters from Quebec and Canada exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts and she has regular exhibitions at Galerie Division (galeriedivision.com, 2020 William St.), which opens a survey of Koop's career on March 19.

Koop expresses her humanistic and environmental concerns in the visual language of colour.

"When I think of making a painting, I must think in colour," she said in an interview. But a personal trauma removes that ability. "I look at a painting in colour when I'm in a non-colour mood and wonder: 'How did I do that?' "

#GGArts, an exhibition of works by the winners, opens March 24 and continues to Sept. 5 at the National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Drive in Ottawa. For more information, visit gallery.ca.