

PRESS RELEASE



SIGNATURES SHOW CELEBRATES 35 YEARS WITH VIP RECEPTION

MAYOR JIM WATSON AMONG GUESTS JOINING CEREMONY AT SHAW CENTRE

OTTAWA, ON – November 15, 2017 – Signatures Shows Ltd., Canada's largest producer of fine craft shows, will welcome over 50 VIP guests to the 35th anniversary reception and preview of the Signatures Show, its flagship show, at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017 at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa.

Included in the VIP guest list is Mayor Jim Watson, who will provide remarks to officially open the ceremony. Yves Laberge, general manager of title sponsor Star Motors, will then present artwork by Signatures Show artist John Shea to Lisa Sullivan, executive director of Hospice Care Ottawa, as gift in honour of the grand opening of the Hein House in the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice.

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“We are honoured to be joined by an illustrious group of guests to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Signatures Show, our flagship show in our home city,” said John Ladouceur, founder and president of Signatures Shows Ltd. “The Signatures Show has long remained the nation’s top destination for Canadian handmade works, and we are humbled to be recognized for its longevity and contributions to Canadian art and culture.”

Following the opening remarks and gift presentation, guests will have the opportunity to meet with five notable and distinguished exhibitors of the 35th annual Signatures Show:

Bill Reddick – *Peterborough, ON* – Mr. Reddick is a renowned ceramic artist and potter best known for working closely with John Ralston Saul in creating the first Canadian Porcelain Service for Rideau Hall, a gift of 45 handmade Canadian porcelain dinner plates which continue to be in use for State events and major prize dinners.

Anne-Marie Chagnon – *Montréal, QC* – Ms. Chagnon is a fine jeweller and multidisciplinary artist trained at the Fine Arts Faculty of the University of Québec in Montréal. For 10 years, she was commissioned by Le Cirque du Soleil to create an exclusive line of branded jewellery. Ms. Chagnon was the first Canadian awarded with the Étoile de Mode at the BIJORHCA PARIS international jewellery show, and her work has been sold at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts.

Layne Verbeek – *Toronto, ON* – Mr. Verbeek is an artist who works with kiln-formed glass to create unexpected forms of colourful sculpture. He is the winner of numerous festival awards, including the Founding Chairman's Award at the 2017 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition. Mr. Verbeek’s work can be found in galleries in Toronto, Cleveland, and Naples, Florida.

John Shea – *Newboro Lake, ON* – Mr. Shea is a fine watercolour artist, whose work focuses on the nineteenth century stone architecture of Eastern Ontario. After studying at the School of Art & Design at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, he went on to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University and a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University.

Karla Morales Rios – *Montréal, QC* – Ms. Rios is the owner and designer of Ampara, producing high-quality knitted garments inspired by her Andean culture using artisanal techniques and sustainable materials. Born in Bolivia, Ms. Rios earned a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering in 2008 at the University of Bolivia San Pablo before immigrating to Canada in 2013, where she earned a Diploma in Fashion Design from LaSalle College in 2016. She has been a member of the Québec Craft Council since 2015.

The 35th annual Signatures Show takes place from Wednesday, Nov. 15 to Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa, and features the handmade works of over 180 top Canadian artists, artisans, and designers from coast-to-coast. Each exhibitor is expertly selected based on the quality, originality, and craftsmanship of their work; they must be the designer and the creator of their respective works, and only work produced in Canada is permitted to be sold.

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ABOUT SIGNATURES SHOWS LTD.

Signatures Shows Ltd. is Canada's largest producer of fine craft shows, with over 37 years experience and over 330 shows produced. Each year, Signatures accepts over 2,500 participating exhibitors and welcomes over 400,000 visitors to its 20 shows in 13 cities across Canada. Based in Ottawa, it is a 100 per cent Canadian owned and operated business. For more information, please visit www.signatures.ca

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