



Top: Svea Ferguson won the top prize for Alberta in the BMO 1st Art! Invitational Student Art Competition with her wall art of linoleum flooring. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO
Inset: Ferguson's piece titled *Future Classic*.
Left: *Back Into the Earth: Creation and the Interpretation of Meaning*, by Tamara Himmelspach

Student artists earn recognition

COMPETITION

Calgarians win top prize provincially and nationally



Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

Finding linoleum flooring inside a home can hardly be considered unusual, but one Calgary artist has found a way to make it so.

Three years ago, Svea Ferguson decided to tip the horizon and found a new place for linoleum: her walls.

After prowling home hardware stores for flooring, the recent Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD) graduate cuts the

linoleum into strips, then folds and weaves them into 3D art.

Her recent piece, *Future Classic*, earned her \$5,000 this summer after nabbing first place for Alberta in the BMO 1st Art! Invitational Student Art Competition.

"I wanted to draw attention to the human-like qualities of a really synthetic material," said Ferguson. "It's something that's domestic — it's in our homes, we're around all the time, no one really pays a second thought to it — but there's a lot of volume and movement in it that can really reflect our own physicality."

The national competition awards a total of \$70,000 per year to one national winner and 12 regional winners. This year, both the Alberta regional winner and the national winner are from Calgary.

Tamara Himmelspach, an

other recent ACAD graduate, earned the top national prize and \$10,000 for her piece entitled *Back Into the Earth: Creation and the Interpretation of Meaning*.

"It's really exciting," said Himmelspach, who handcrafted a traditional aboriginal jingle dress for her performance art piece.

"All these new doors are opening, and I don't really know where they're going to take me but I'm going along for the ride. It's been such a great experience, being on the road to becoming a professional artist."

This October, Ferguson and Himmelspach will fly out to Toronto, along with all the other winners, to see their work on display at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery.

"Apart from scholarships, there's no acknowledgement in this country of what student artists are doing," said Dawn Cain, curator of the BMO Corporate Art Collection. "Really, what we're hoping to do is acknowledge that there are some really innovative and wonderful things going on in our art schools."



Apart from scholarships, there's no acknowledgement in this country of what student artists are doing. Dawn Cain, curator