

DEB THOMPSON APPOINTED AS NELSON'S 2024 CULTURAL AMBASSADOR

For Immediate Release

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The Cultural Development Committee (CDC), on behalf of the City of Nelson, is pleased to announce visual artist, curator and educator Deb Thompson's appointment as Nelson's 2024 Cultural Ambassador. The award comes with an \$1000 honorarium.

A foundational member of Nelson's arts community, the depth and breadth of Thompson's work, honed over decades, has received many accolades. Her practices include drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and most recently, stop-motion animation. A founding member of the Oxygen Art Centre, which just celebrated its 20th anniversary, she has offered painting and drawing classes there since its inception and was the exhibition and residency coordinator for many years. When she first moved to Nelson in 1999, Thompson taught at Kootenay School of the Arts (now Kootenay Studio Arts at Selkirk College), and was also the second curator at the then new Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History (now Nelson Museum and Art Gallery).

Thompson has recently completed two residencies, one at the Sointula Art Shed on Malcolm Island where she worked on a stop motion animation piece about the destructive aspects of deep ocean mining, the second at the Sitka Centre for Art and Ecology on the Oregon coast. She was awarded the Jordan Schnitzer Printmaking Residency, producing 4 copperplate etchings, with prints now in the Portland Art Museum Printmaking Permanent Collection.

Always learning and pushing her own boundaries, Thompson is currently preparing for a solo exhibition at the Grand Forks Art Gallery (May 2024) where she will show her stop-motion animation work and a body of new figurative-based drawn and cutout works funded through a Canada Council for the Arts Research and Creation Grant. Additionally, she has been invited to take part in an artist residency at Boxo PROJECTS, Joshua Tree, California in April 2024, where she will develop her new project "Moth Sensorium". She will also be curating a group exhibition on Posthuman feminism at the Langham Cultural Centre in the summer of 2025.

"I am honoured to be chosen as the next Cultural Ambassador for Nelson, and particularly grateful for the opportunities I have had as an artist, educator and curator to be part of the growth in arts and cultural foundation of Nelson over the past twenty-five years," say Thompson. "My life is all the richer for it!"

"Deb Thompson is woven deeply into the fabric of Nelson's arts and cultural community, and we are thrilled to present her with the 2024 Cultural Ambassador Award" says Sydney Black, Chair of the CDC. "This award formally acknowledges her accomplishments as both an artist and educator who contributes so much to this community, and recognizes the exciting work she is embarking on in 2024."

The CDC established the Cultural Ambassador honour in recognition of local individual artists, groups or collectives who have achieved a high standard of excellence in their artistic discipline and who are active not only in Nelson's cultural community but extend their talents to other communities and countries. The Cultural Ambassador is expected to represent and promote the City of Nelson on their travels, increasing the visibility and cultural reputation of Nelson. Previous Cultural Ambassadors include ceramicist and educator Robin DuPont, author Jane Byers, author Roz Nay, artist/performer Marilyn Hatfield, singer/performer Allison Girvan, dancer Slava Doval, writer Eileen Delehanty Pearkes, visual artist Ian

Johnston, musician Bessie Wapp, filmmaker Amy Bohigian, actor Lucas Myers, dancer Hiromoto Ida, author Anne DeGrace, fibre artist Angelika Werth, and the Corazón Youth Choir.

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