

## **AAD 2024 Backgrounders FINAL**

### **Meghan Weeks**

Vancouver

Judson Beaumont Emerging Artist

Meghan Weeks is the creative force behind MDW Jewelry, where she serves as artist, maker, designer, and small business owner. With a background in woodworking and informal training in silversmithing, Meghan's work blends tactility, humour, Cree teachings, and childhood memories. Her pieces, crafted through fabrication, beadwork, carving, and lost wax casting, are made from sterling silver and beads, aimed at decolonizing the jewelry world and fostering dialogue between the wearer and the art.

Meghan is a member of Sucker Creek First Nation in Treaty 8 territory, and a long-time Vancouver resident who actively contributes to BC's cultural economy. Since 2018, she has showcased her work at Indigenous festivals, gallery spaces, and for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients. Meghan holds a BFA in Media Arts from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and values her roles as a mentor and collaborator. Her jewelry, inspired by nature and cultural heritage, is as thought-provoking as it is beautiful.

### **Pam Baker**

West Vancouver

Pam Baker (Himikalas/Sewid-duuk) is a proud Squamish/Kwakiutl member and a renowned artist and fashion designer with over 45 years of experience. As the owner of Touch of Culture for 31 years, she specializes in West Coast fashion, blending ready-to-wear and haute couture designs with her rich Coast Salish, Kwakiutl, and Tlingit heritage. Pam has mentored over 120 artists and trained models internationally, excelling in fashion show production, marketing, and Indigenous art projects.

Her achievements include awards like Industry Originator Award 2023, N.A.M.S.B., and the Arthur Gilbert Award, and in 2022, Hudson's Bay featured her collections. Pam is part of the wisdom circle of Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week, as well showcasing her designs since its beginning. Himikalas has showcased her designs globally in cities like Paris, Santa Fe, the US and Canada. As a trailblazer and traditional knowledge keeper, Pam continues to elevate Indigenous fashion, creating opportunities for others to flourish in the industry.

### **Robin DuPont**

Winlaw

Robin DuPont is a frontrunner in contemporary ceramics in North America, recognized for his innovative atmospherically fired ceramics that push the boundaries of form and

surface. With over 20 years of experience, Robin's pursuit of creative and technical development has earned him a reputation for excellence in the field. His extensive research into new ceramic surfaces, clay bodies, and kiln design sets him apart in Canadian studio ceramics.

As an educator and mentor, Robin has taught at numerous institutions across Canada and the United States, and currently leads the ceramics program at Kootenay Studio Arts at Selkirk College. His teaching has reinvigorated the program, inspiring the next generation of potters to produce work of exceptional quality. Robin also conducts workshops from his property in the Slocan Valley, sharing his expertise in atmospheric firing.

In 2023, Robin was named Nelson's cultural ambassador and served as the pottery expert on CBC TV's "Great Canadian Pottery Throwdown".

### **Brent Comber**

North Vancouver  
Award of Distinction

Brent Comber is a renowned Canadian furniture maker and artist based in North Vancouver, British Columbia. His practice explores generation, connection, permanence, and impermanence. Embedded with memory, the materials he works with—wood, predominantly distinct tree forms, and light—are elemental to the story being told, with their story and his own inextricably linked to the Pacific Northwest. This place, as a physical environment and a sensorial experience, has shaped who he is and how he sees himself as an artist. Sculptural and often large-scale or inherently purposeful, his work invites the viewer to reimagine their relationship with the natural world.

In 2014, Brent's creativity and craftsmanship were honoured with the Applied Art + Design Award, a recognition of his exceptional contributions to furniture design. A decade later, his creative and innovative approach together with a strong commitment to sustainability distinguish him as a true leader in his field, earning him the Award of Distinction designation.

Brent's work can be found in galleries, public spaces, and private collections around the world, a testament to his respected place in both the local and international design scene.