

2025 Applied Art + Design Awardee Backgrounders

Tyler James Goin, Vancouver

Tyler James Goin is an emerging voice in contemporary ceramics and metal-based craft, recognized for sculptural works that merge industrial precision with emotional depth. With nearly two decades of creative exploration across painting, music, and writing—and early mentorship from sculptor Tony Bloom—Tyler brings rare interdisciplinary fluency to his practice. His foundation as a Red Seal Millwright in Vancouver’s heavy industrial sector grounds his work in structure, material sensitivity, and a deep respect for process.

Tyler’s practice centres on large-scale ceramics and forged metalwork that evoke the strength and solitude of the mountainous landscapes he grew up in. His forms carry a quiet complexity—pieces that feel both monumental and intimate. With a growing presence in BC’s design and craft community, Tyler exemplifies the values of innovation, resilience, and material intelligence.

Russell Hackney, Bowen Island

Russell Hackney is a third-generation ceramic artist whose porcelain works reflect over four decades of skill, refinement, and dedication to the art of slip-casting and relief modelling. Trained in Stoke-on-Trent, England—long considered the heartland of fine ceramics—Russell apprenticed under his father in the family pottery before earning a degree in 3D Design. Since immigrating to British Columbia in 2002, he has become a vital contributor to the province’s design and clay communities through both service and artistry.

Working from his studio on Bowen Island, Russell draws inspiration from the natural world and cultural undercurrents, producing embossed porcelain forms that merge technical mastery with contemplative design. His dual role as maker and mentor has introduced many to the possibilities of slip-casting and mould-making, supporting artists across BC. In both functional ware and sculptural expression, Russell’s work carries forward a legacy of excellence in applied art.

Bettina Mueller Reichl, Vancouver

Bettina Mueller Reichl is the founder and creative force behind Cape de Coeur, a Vancouver-based outerwear label that represents a groundbreaking fusion of high performance and high fashion. Drawing on a lifelong passion for clothing design and a deep-rooted artistic sensibility, Bettina has developed a line of high-fashion rain capes that are both waterproof and windproof—crafted using a proprietary three-layer fabric developed in partnership with an innovative European mill. Her garments challenge

conventional fashion narratives while responding directly to British Columbia's climate and lifestyle.

Inspired by the Pacific Northwest's natural elements and informed by the province's legacy of technical innovation, Bettina creates pieces that reflect timelessness, individuality, and environmental consciousness. Her work contributes significantly to BC's cultural economy by advancing innovation in fashion and showcasing the region's creative potential on a global stage.

Mario Pao, Vancouver

Mario Pao is a multidisciplinary artist, designer, and maker whose practice bridges architecture, traditional craft, and material innovation. Trained as both an architect and a woodworker, Mario leads Workbench Studio—an interdisciplinary design studio that produces conceptually rich, technically precise, and boldly original work.

From large-scale installations to finely detailed furniture and objects in wood, metal, and ceramics, Mario's work reflects an intuitive understanding of materiality and form. His pieces are grounded in rigour and craft yet always reach beyond function—inviting deeper dialogue about space, identity, and the handmade. Beyond the materials and the creation of the physical objects themselves, he shows a deft hand at bringing people into his studio that can contribute their own knowledge and artistry to elevating the body of work beyond the output of a single person.

Mario's art has a growing influence across BC's creative landscape, exemplifying ambition, ingenuity, and cultural contribution.