

**EMILY CARR STUDENT WINS DESIGN CONTEST  
FOR BURRARD BRIDGE CHERRY BLOSSOM BANNERS**

Contest's 80 entries on public display at Granville Island until November 13th



**VANCOUVER, BC (November 6, 2015)**— The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival (VCBF) and the Emily Carr University of Art + Design are pleased to announce that local designer Ryann Carney is the winner of the contest to design the iconic street banners that will line the Burrard Bridge during the 2016 Cherry Blossom Festival next spring.

The contest was part of a partnership between the Festival and Emily Carr to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival. The 80 local artists that participated are students in the university's design foundation courses, in which students explore creative ways to solve problems and engage with the world. All contest entries will be on display in the Foundation Hallway at Emily Carr (1399 Johnston St.) Monday to Friday (8am-8pm) until November 13.

"As part of our ongoing collaborative efforts to bring art, design, and media to the wider public, Emily Carr University is delighted to partner with the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival to produce a banner designed by foundation students," said Susan Stewart, Dean of the Faculty of Culture & Community.

"This wonderful project provides essential learning opportunities and professional experience for our students. Working with community partners in collaboration is a core value of the Faculty of Culture & Community, and we are thrilled that the Cherry Blossom Festival has engaged our talented foundation students and exceptional faculty with this real world project."

For winner Ryann Carney, cherry blossoms have always been a sign of spring. With her banner, she wanted to represent the festival in a way that showcased the beauty and significance of the blossom.

"The Cherry Blossom Festival is such a vibrant part of Vancouver, I wanted the banner to reflect that," said Carney. "I was inspired by how much cultural power and significance the festival has, yet it still manages to be whimsical and fun. The large flowers try to reflect how important the cherry blossom is, while the pattern in the background emulates people gathering beneath the trees and the abundance of the blossoms in the city. I hope my banner speaks to anyone that sees it, and that the joy of the festival comes across."

Other students being recognized for their superb entries include Ruth Hampton (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Jill Chiu (3<sup>rd</sup> place) and Una Gil and Vivian Chen (runners-up).

"What a powerful exhibit; I was overwhelmed and delighted to view the wide spectrum of interpretations of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival," said VCBF founder and Executive Director Linda Poole. "I'd like to thank everyone at Emily Carr for contributing their time and talent to this new initiative and many thanks also to Durante Kreuk Ltd., whose sponsorship of the contest helped make it possible."

**About VCBF:** The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival is a charitable, not-for-profit society whose mission is to sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage while educating and actively engaging diverse communities in arts and culture to celebrate the fragile beauty of the cherry blossom.

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