

Two Wheat City artists named to Man. Arts Council

Westman Journal

August 5, 2017 10:01 AM



Dr. Leanne Zacharias is one of two Brandon residents recently named to the Manitoba Arts Council. The other Brandonite who was named to the council is Dr. Kathy Moscou. Both Zacharias and Moscou are accomplished artists and work at Brandon University.

Brandon-based artists Dr. Kathy Moscou and Dr. Leanne Zacharias have been named to the board of the Manitoba Arts Council, two of nine new members appointed to the body late last month by Rochelle Squires, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage for Manitoba. Both

Moscou and Zacharias work at Brandon University; Moscou is a pharmacist and visual artist whose contemporary work covers themes of race, identity and culture. Her art has been exhibited in galleries across the country.

Zacharias, meanwhile, is an associate professor of music also known as an accomplished cellist and interdisciplinary artist.

She is a member of the faculty at the Domaine Forget International Music Academy and is a co-director with Brandon's Wheat City Nuit Blanche and Wild Studio summer workshop.

"As a past recipient of support from the Manitoba Arts Council granting programs, I am well aware of the importance of the council for artists," Zacharias said last week.

"I'm happy for the opportunity to give back in this way and look forward to advocating for contemporary creative practices around the province, particularly in rural Manitoba."

A provincial Order In Council established the appointments on June 28.

The pair joins a total of 15 board members, nine being new to the positions. Zacharias will hold her seat until Sept. 21, 2018, while Moscou will remain on the board until the same date in 2019.

“My name was put forward within the provincial government and I agreed to let my name stand for nomination. I’m very pleased to have been approved,” said Zacharias, who has been a member of the faculty at BU’s School of Music since 2008.

She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Texas and a Master of Music degree from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

“My practice is primarily as a cellist and collaborative artist. I also design unique performance situations and experiences, and work across North America and Europe as a performer and teacher,” she added.

Moscou was the principal investigator on a research project hosted by BU in 2016.

Called the Health and Aboriginal Land-based Education Research (HEALER) Symposium, the project hosted a two-day forum with a mission to identify community-university research priorities and organize community-based research investigating the relationship between Indigenous knowledge, land-based education, health literacy and health.

Artistically, Moscou is a painter and mixed media specialist, working with hair, textiles and other materials.

Her work is described as both classical and contemporary which challenges the contemporary stereotypes of African Americans and examines issues of identity using depictions of children and elders.

The new chair of the council is High Bluff, Man.’s Roberta Christianson, who previously chaired the council from 1993 until 2001.

She is also chair of the Manitoba Foundation for the Arts and the Manitoba Arts and Cultural Alliance.

The Manitoba Arts Council was established in 1965 to administer grants to professional individuals and organizations working in the fields of literary, performing and visual arts and education.

Operating as an arms-length, government body, the council is funded by the province’s Sport, Culture and Heritage ministry.

Also appointed or re-appointed to the Manitoba Arts Council by Minister Squires were vice-chair Scott Baldwin, Yisa Akinbolaji, Elizabeth Gornik, Josée Théberge, Bonnie White, Roberta Christianson, Janeen Junson, Lewis Rosenberg and Lesia Szwaluk.