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**Textile Museum of Canada Announces 2018 Melissa Levin Emerging Artist  
Winners!**

October 25, 2018 Toronto, Ontario – The Textile Museum of Canada is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 Melissa Levin Emerging Artist Award - Catherine Blackburn and Meera Sethi.

*“We are so pleased to be announcing Catherine and Meera as our 2018 Melissa Levin Emerging Artist Award Winners. This award allows us to foster the potential of artists at a critical stage of their careers and we look forward to supporting their growth over the next year. We are honoured to be continuing Melissa’s legacy as a mentor and artist.” - Sarah Quinton, Curatorial Director*

Now in its second year, The Melissa Levin Emerging Artist Award helps emerging artists conduct self-directed activities such as art production, apprenticeships, residencies, and research. The Textile Museum of Canada supports the applicant’s customized program of research and access to the Museum’s library, exhibitions, and permanent collection. The award is in memory and honour of Melissa Levin (1958-2015), an artist, mentor, and teacher whose career as a textile and costume designer was synonymous with her exuberant love of colour and pattern.

About the 2018 Award Winners:

**Catherine Blackburn** (Leask, Saskatchewan) is a bead artist, painter, and jeweller. Her art practice is informed by her Dene and European ancestry and speaks to the complexities of memory, history, and identity. With this award, Catherine will purchase materials and equipment for her studio.

**Meera Sethi** (Richmond Hill, Ontario) is a contemporary artist whose practice encompasses a range of mediums to pose questions about the relationship between migration, diaspora, hybridity, and belonging. Meera will conduct research in the Museum’s collection of garments and textiles from South Asia.

If you are interested in donating to the Melissa Levin Emerging Artist Fund, please visit [textilemuseum.ca/join-support/give](http://textilemuseum.ca/join-support/give) or call 416-599-5321 x2246.

STAY TUNED: watch for our announcement of their public presentations at the Textile Museum of Canada and meet the artists in person!

- 30 -

**About Melissa Levin**

Melissa Levin (1958-2015) was an artist, mentor, and teacher whose career as a textile and costume designer was synonymous with her exuberant love of colour and pattern. This award was established in honour of Melissa's passion for mentoring emerging artists, with generous donations made by family, friends, and communities. [www.melissalevinartist.com](http://www.melissalevinartist.com)

**About the Textile Museum of Canada**

The Textile Museum of Canada is the only museum in Canada that explores ideas and builds cultural understanding through the universally relevant media of textiles. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, the Museum's permanent collection spans nearly 2,000 years and consists of more than 15,000 artifacts.

The Textile Museum of Canada is a non-profit cultural and internationally renowned educational institution, which marked its 40th anniversary in 2015. A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the Museum has been recognized the world over for innovation in the development of landmark educational, research, and creative initiatives.

Open seven days a week, the Museum is located steps from the St. Patrick subway station and just a few blocks from Toronto City Hall and the Art Gallery of Ontario. The Museum Shop specializes in textile related merchandise including books and toys and globally sourced artist-designed and artist-made products such as scarves and jewelry. More information about the Museum and its exhibitions can be found online at [textilemuseum.ca](http://textilemuseum.ca).

**For more information**, additional media materials and images, please contact:

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