



## See the 15 painters shortlisted for the \$25,000 RBC Canadian Painting Competition

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The Globe and Mail

Published Saturday, Jun. 14 2014, 12:15 PM EDT

Last updated Friday, Jun. 20 2014, 9:31 AM EDT

Painting's often been put down as a viable medium for the contemporary art-maker, but it's never been entirely out of the artistic picture – a fact celebrated since 1999 by the annual RBC Canadian Painting Competition. This weekend competition organizers announced the 15 finalists for its 16th edition. The winner, who receives \$25,000, and two runners-up are to be named Oct. 1 at a gala at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

As its title explicates, the prize doesn't honour veteran or established painters, but rather Canadian artists "in the early stages of their careers." Unsurprisingly then, the finalists and winners have almost always been in their late 20s to mid-30s.

Last year, to mark its 15th anniversary, RBC awarded a total of \$115,000, its biggest purse ever. Besides the usual \$25,000 to the winner and \$15,000 to each runner-up, each of the remaining finalists were given \$5,000. This year's total is \$55,000, divided among the winner and the two runners-up. Works by all finalists will be displayed at the MMFA in an exhibition running Sept. 9 through Oct. 8.

As ever, the 15 finalists, culled from hundreds of entries, were chosen by jury and allotted by region: five from Western Canada, five from Central Canada, five from Eastern Canada.