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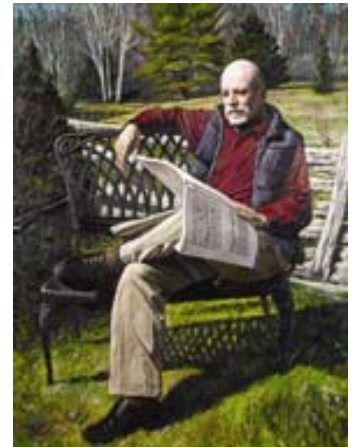
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**Local artist selected for the finals of the Canadian National Portrait Competition**

**February 1, 2010 CALGARY, ALBERTA** --- Zinour Fathoullin holds the honour of being the only Calgarian artist amongst the 30 Kingston Prize 2009 finalists. His portrait of composer Christos Hatzis is currently exhibited with the other finalists' portraits at The Art Gallery of Calgary until April 10, 2010.

"I am particularly inspired by people who are simple, generous of spirit and intellectually complex," says Fathoullin. "When I paint a subject with whom I share a common understanding of this delicate life balance, their portrait simply flows out of me as though I am a conduit of their essence".

Born and educated in the former Soviet Union (Russia), Fathoullin has achieved excellence in both dance and fine arts since his career began in 1979. He began an internationally acclaimed dance school in Nunavut, as well as, has commissioned dance works with Susan Aglukark and Paul Brandt. His paintings, sculptures, and portraits have been exhibited in Russia, the Ukraine, Greenland, Alaska, Belgium, France, New York, Nunavut, Toronto and Calgary. Commissioned works are currently installed in the Nunavut Legislature, the Premier of Nunavut's Office, Ravenwood Oil and Gas, ENG Environmental Solutions, the Calgary Board of Education, and various private collections.



Zinour Fathoullin, *Christos Hatzis*, Courtesy of the Artist

The mission of the biennial Kingston Prize is to encourage and reward the creation of contemporary portraits by Canadian artists. The exhibition premiered in Kingston (Ontario) and has since travelled to Wolfville (Nova Scotia), Toronto, and Calgary.

"The Gallery is proud to host the works of the Kingston Prize finalists," says Valerie Cooper, AGC President & CEO. "These beautiful portraits allow us a glimpse into the lives of ordinary Canadians. Given that Calgary is the final stop of the tour, I encourage people to visit The Gallery to see for themselves what this unique competition is about and the immense talent from across Canada."

The AGC is a non-profit, non-collecting, public contemporary art gallery. The AGC is recognized and valued locally, nationally, and internationally for the quality of its contemporary art exhibitions and programs.

The AGC acknowledges the generous support of: Library and Archives Canada, Calgary Arts Development, The City of Calgary, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta Society of Artists, Canada Council for the Arts, On the Level Art, Total Transportation Solutions, ExecSuite, Energy 101.5, Avenue Magazine, Citytv, The Calgary Herald, swerve magazine, Industry Images, Grumans Extraordinary Catering, and blue hydrangea.

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**For more information contact:**

Donna Kwan  
[donnakwan@shaw.ca](mailto:donnakwan@shaw.ca) or 403-7105426  
[www.artgallerycalgary.org](http://www.artgallerycalgary.org)  
BACKGROUNDERS ATTACHED

## BACKGROUNDER

**Zinour Fathoullin**, Calgary, Alberta

### *Artist Statement*

Christos [Hatzis] and I initially connected in 1999 through our common love and respect for the Inuit culture. I was in the midst of choreographing pieces for an upcoming tour of my Inuit dance company entitled *Sikumiut (People of the Ice)*. While vacationing in Nova Scotia with my family, we visited James and Alma Houston's Art Gallery in Lunenburg and Christos' music was playing in the background. It immediately caught my attention and, on a whim, I called him at his home in Toronto. We spoke and he gave me permission to use his music for the pieces I was creating. Thus began a relationship that was not cemented by a face-to-face meeting, until this spring, when Christos generously agreed to sit for me as a subject for this portrait in his country home in Uxbridge, Ontario. The characteristic most evident during our time together was his uncanny ability to be both in the moment with you, while at the same time, being "somewhere else" in his own world, creating music. This is the expression captured in the portrait.

For more information

[www.legacyartworkbyzinour.com](http://www.legacyartworkbyzinour.com)

### **Christos Hatzis**

Since 1983, two time Juno Award winner, Christos Hatzis has had in excess of 92 national and international commissions. He was awarded the 1998 Jean A. Chalmers National Music Award for the Canadian Classical Composition of the Year and the 2008 Jan V. Matejcek Concert Music Award from SOCAN.

Hatzis will be performing *Tongues of Fire* with Rod Squance and the University of Calgary Wind Ensemble at the Rozsa Centre on February 2 at 8pm.

### **The Kingston Prize 2009**

The Kingston Prize was co-founded by Julian and Kaaren Brown in 2005. The mission of The Kingston Prize is to encourage and reward the creation of contemporary portraits by Canadian artists, through a biennial national competition for paintings and drawings. To be eligible, an entry must be a painting or drawing of a specific Canadian person, produced within 24 months of the closing date, and must be based upon a meeting between artist and subject. The competition is not limited by age or professional status.

The 2009 competition attracted 471 entries from across Canada, from which the expert jury selected thirty portraits to be exhibited. After the exhibition came together in Kingston, the jury chose the winner of the Kingston Prize and two Honourable Mention awards.

### Jury

Robert Enright, Critic; Professor, University of Guelph; Senior Contribution Editor, *Border Crossings*

Eliza Griffiths, Painter and Assistant Professor, Concordia University

Lilly Koltun, Director General, Portrait Gallery of Canada

### Winners

Andrew Valko, Winnipeg, MB Kingston Prize

Allan MacKay, Kitchener, ON 1<sup>st</sup> Honourable Mention

Fiona Ackerman, Vancouver, BC 2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable Mention

For more information

[www.kingstonprize.ca](http://www.kingstonprize.ca)