

North Carolina Museum of Art's Stacey Kirby Awarded 2016 ArtPrize Juried Grand Prize

Raleigh, N.C.—The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) announces that NCMA conservation assistant Stacey Kirby has been awarded the Juried Grand Prize at the eighth annual international art competition [ArtPrize](#). A jury of art experts selected Kirby's work, *The Bureau of Personal Belonging*, as the winner out of 1,453 submissions. As one of two Grand Prize winners—one juried and one selected by popular vote—Kirby was awarded \$200,000.



"ArtPrize was an expansive journey for me as an artist," says Stacey Kirby. "The vision that I had for the work came to fruition as a result of the hard work of fellow North Carolina artists, the Grand Rapids community members, and ArtPrize's incredible staff. I am honored and delighted to represent North Carolina's thriving arts community through this award."

ArtPrize, an international art competition decided equally by public vote and expert jury, is held annually in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It has been named the most attended public art event in the world for two consecutive years by [The Art Newspaper](#)—average daily attendance at the 19-day event is on par with that of the Louvre in Paris and surpasses that of the British Museum in London and the Met in New York. This year's ArtPrize began September 21, and the award ceremony was held October 7.

Kirby's interactive, performative installation, *The Bureau of Personal Belonging*, was selected as the Grand Prize winner by jurors Michelle Grabner, artist and professor at School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Paul Ha, director at the MIT List Visual Arts Center; and Eric Shiner, senior vice president at Sotheby's. The second Grand Prize, based on smartphone-enabled popular vote, was awarded to James Mellick for his work *Wounded Warrior Dogs*.

The Bureau of Personal Belonging is a site-specific installation comprising three ongoing works where visitors interact with the artist and other performers within a re-created bureaucratic office setting. With this interactive work, Kirby critically examines governmental process and policy while encouraging visitors and the public to trust in the validity of their own voices.

"Stacey has been a creative force on the NCMA team for several years," says Lawrence J. Wheeler, director of the NCMA. "It is most gratifying—and exciting—to watch her emerge as an artist of international importance. She has a lot to say. We congratulate her on her ArtPrize honor."

As conservation assistant at the NCMA, Kirby assists conservators with treatment and maintenance of the Museum's collection, outdoor sculptures, and special exhibitions.

Image Credit: Alex Maness (Pictured left to right: Heather Gordon, Warren Hicks, Stacey Kirby, Harriet Hoover)

###

About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.