

**Contact:**  
Janna Smith, PR Coordinator  
janna@countyarts.ca

For Immediate Release

**Hri Neil Recipient of 3rd Annual Community Arts Builder Award**

**June 18, 2020** (Picton, ON): The Prince Edward County Arts Council and Art in the County are pleased to present the 3rd annual **Community Arts Builder Award** to Hri Neil, Curator and Gallery Director, Carbon Art & Design, Picton.

Sponsored by **Sam Simone, Monica Klingenberg & Laurie Gruer of Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited Brokerage**, the Community Arts Builder Award celebrates individuals who have enriched community life through the arts as nominated by local residents. The award includes a \$250 monetary gift. Previous winners include Krista Dalby, Department of Illumination (2019) and Peter & Alice Mennacher, Blizzmax Gallery (2018).

The 2020 selection committee of Shirley Lewchuk, Laurie Gruer, Sarah Moran, and Krista Dalby (as the 2019 award recipient) stated, "Since arriving in the County, Hri has made his presence known in a humble yet incredibly visible way. A thoughtful, creative and supportive artist, he has made an immeasurable contribution to our community as a mentor, curator, and participant in a wide range of community events. He truly is a community leader and we are indeed proud to present Hri with this award."

Hri Neil is a multidisciplinary artist and curator centered on sound, video, installation, and performance who holds a BFA in Painting and Drawing from Concordia University, Montreal. His work has been shown both nationally and internationally, including performances for the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, and in the New Territories program at ARCO in Spain. He is a past recipient of the Telus Award for Technological Innovation in the Arts. Over the last two decades, Hri has focused on his artistic practice and independent curatorial projects, as well as working in a variety of roles within the artist run, public and private art and design spheres.

Since moving to Prince Edward County, Hri has been committed to making space for contemporary art in our community by producing County Contemporary (2016 & 2017), and establishing Carbon Art & Design in June 2018. He has also been involved with the Firelight Lantern Festival since 2013 and created the installations REMIX and BE HERE NOW for ICE BOX 2019 and 2020 respectively. His strong sense of community is evident through volunteer work as a DJ Ombudsman, providing tech and design support for community events and groups (Food Not Bombs at Picton Town Hall, dance groups at Athol Rec Centre) and he has been the force behind Wintermarket, a seasonal market for local art, crafts, and edible bounty.

For more information about the Community Arts Builder Award, visit: [www.artinthecounty.com](http://www.artinthecounty.com), call the Prince Edward County Arts Council at (613) 476-8767 or e-mail: [artinthecounty@countyarts.ca](mailto:artinthecounty@countyarts.ca).