

Kate Gilmore

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ART WORLD

Kate Gilmore Wins ArtPrize's \$200,000 Juried Award

Sarah Cascone, Tuesday, October 13, 2015

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Kate Gilmore, *Higher Ground* at Art Prize 2015. Photo: Neil Blake, courtesy Michigan Live.

The two \$200,000 grand prize winners of the seventh annual ArtPrize competition in Grand Rapids, Michigan, are artist Kate Gilmore, chosen by the expert jury, and husband and wife duo Loveless PhotoFiber, the people's choice. Steve and Ann Loveless become the first artist team to win the public prize, while Ann is the first repeat champion, having originally won the prize in 2013.

"I'm happy to have some money," Gilmore told Michigan Live.

Gilmore's installation, *Higher Ground*, was part of Rumsey Street Project, an urban redevelopment project from Habitat for Humanity and SiTE:LAB, a repeat winner of ArtPrize's best venue award. SiTE:LAB converted a number of abandoned properties, slated to become affordable housing, into art installations.



Kate Gilmore's installation at Site:Lab

The windows of the Higher Ground home—a former convent painted hot pink—became a stage for female performers in long white dresses perched atop fire-engine red swings suspended from the ceiling. Juror Dan Cameron, founder of Prospect New Orleans, described the resulting work as "really kind of magical" in a statement.

The jury also recognized five additional entries in the categories of two- and three-dimensional art, time-based work, installation, and outstanding venue, the latter again going to SiTE:LAB, now a four-time honoree at the annual competition.

The Loveless's Northwood Awakenings, on display at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, was selected through 422,763 votes; the duo created a new hybrid art form that they call PhotoFiber. The resulting work begins as a photograph, and blends in quilting elements along its length until it becomes an entirely textile work at the other end.

After her first win, for her quilt quilt Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore, Loveless had to take a year off as per contest rules. In her absence, artist Anila Quayyum Agha snagged both the public and juried prizes in 2014, splitting the latter with artist Sonya Clark.