

# ARTFORUM

## **Arlene Schnitzer Prize Winner Announced; Artists Fly in Zero Gravity**

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The Portland Art Museum has announced that Seattle artist Whiting Tennis was awarded the first Arlene Schnitzer Prize, according to e-flux. At the opening celebration for the inaugural Contemporary Northwest Art Awards, dedicated to recognizing the accomplishments of emerging and underrecognized contemporary artists based in the Northwest, four other artists were honored: Dan Attoe, Cat Clifford, Jeffrey Mitchell, and Marie Watt. Tennis was selected from the five artists to receive the unrestricted ten-thousand-dollar cash prize by a panel composed of the museum's executive director and its six curators. Tennis received a BFA from the University of Washington in 1984. He has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions at galleries including Derek Eller Gallery in New York and Greg Kucera Gallery in Seattle. His work is included in public collections including those of the Seattle Art Museum and the Tacoma Art Museum.

In unrelated news, three British artists fought nausea and weightlessness in an effort to make art in zero gravity today aboard an aircraft used for cosmonaut training, reports the Associated Press via USA Today. By the time they were finished, two of the artists were queasy, as was a black cat taken up as part of a performance piece, said Nasser Azam, one of the artists to ride the plane. The plane made ten parabola-shaped flights before landing back at Moscow's Star City cosmonaut-training center. The artists experienced zero gravity in twenty-three-second intervals during the flight, a series of steep climbs and sharp drops that simulate weightlessness. Every time the plane climbed out of a dive, the artists experienced short periods of double gravity, during which they felt twice their weight. While on board, artist Lyn Hagan filmed the predator-prey reactions of a live cat and mouse in zero-gravity conditions. According to Azam, both the cat and Hagan became sick after about three loops of the plane, which cut the piece short. Luke Jerram, the third artist on board, also became ill, and his portion of the project was also cut short. Azam is now the artist-in-residence at London's County Hall Gallery, which covered the project's remaining expenses.