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The IESNYC Announces Winners of the 2019 Student Lighting Competition

Grand Prize Winner - Ghost Town by Pratt institute's Jialun Cao
Second Place Winner - Layered by Parsons New School of Design's Andrea Young Fierro, Karmen Ho, Suji Lee
Third Place Winner – Spark of Joy by Pratt Institute's Simy Bentata Singer
Plus Four Honorable Mention Winners



The IESNYC Student Lighting Competition (SLC), a signature program of the Illuminating Engineering Society New York City Section (IESNYC) announces the winners of the 2019 competition held on March 5th at 4W43. This year's theme – Light & Culture – challenges students to design and construct a three-dimensional study that explores the role light in plays in their home culture or that of their adopted one. Over 100 students or teams of students exhibited their work. The event is an opportunity for the lighting and design community to see the installations created by the next generation of lighting designers and over 400 lighting industry professionals, educators, and students attended the event.

“Our theme this year challenged students to explore the importance of light in culture, which was especially fitting because so many of our students are international,” says Brigid Hardiman, MIES, Lightcraft, and co-chair of the Student Lighting Competition. “This year, we were presented with a wonderful glimpse into how lighting is experienced and interpreted throughout the world.”

“As in previous years, the theme is subjective, and we word the prompt in such a way so that each student can glean their own meaning from the theme, adds Erin Gussert, LC, MIES, RL Studio and co-chair of the competition.”

Grand Prize Winner
Ghost Town
Jialun Cao – Pratt Institute - Scott Lundberg (instructor)



Ghost Town is dedicated to the memory of the craftspeople and beautiful old times they left behind in a Chinese village of Jingdezhen in southeastern China. Ceramic rice bowls, which the town is known for are cracked and illuminated. Glow sticks illuminate linen screens. The jury commented that the installation has emotional impact with broken pieces of ceramics and soft fabric, resulting in an unusual unexpected source of color and light.

Second Place Winner
Layered
Andrea Young Fierro, Karmen Ho, Suji Lee – Parsons New School for Design - Derek Porter (instructor)

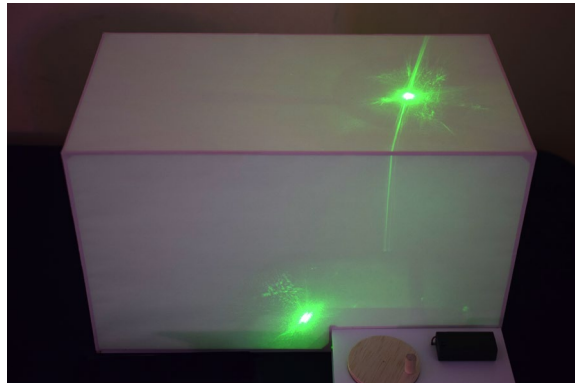


The relationship to different cultures and humanity is a layered experience. Viewing through the shadowed apertures at different angles allows the observer to see the layered personalities symbolic of unique and diverse cultures and find alignments and similarities as the observer meanders through the layers, revelations come to light. The jury added that the project is a beautiful piece of artwork, sophisticated and seductive with multiple layers.

Third Place Winner

Spark of Joy

Simy Bentata Singer – Pratt Institute - Willy Schwenzfeier (instructor)



This installation expresses how we all live deepened into our own lives, wanderings and beliefs. But in a dark night of a special day, we converge in the same spot of the same sky, see the same sparks of joy, for nothing less than commemorating life. The jury added that it is very mediational and tempting to play with and since it is biophilic, it connects humans with nature.

Honorable Mention

Dwellings

Aysel Aziz - Parsons New School of Design
Derek Porter and Nelson Jenkins (instructors)



When the sun goes down beyond the horizon, the light coming from each dwelling creates the unique painting on the canvas of the sky. Residents paint the interior of their homes with light representing their personalities, cultural backgrounds, tastes, and habits. The jury added that the installation does a good job of addressing theme with culture and community scenes, interchangeable with light inside and out.

Honorable Mention

Unity of Light

Craig Young

New York School of Interior Design (NYSID)

Eric Chenault (instructor)

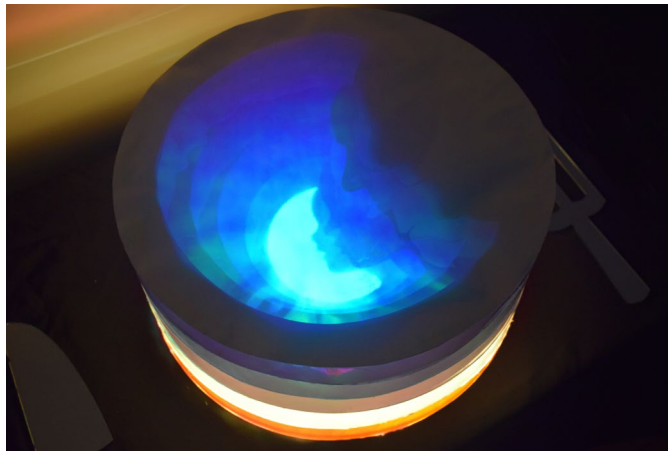


One of the initial inspirations for this installation was Kokopelli dancers and the idea of sitting around a campfire and the stories that are told and been handed from generation to generation. Many events revolve around light - the torch at the Olympics, the ball dropping in times square on New Year's Eve, and fireworks on the 4th of July – and light brings together people culturally in shared experiences. The jury added that the installation speaks to community and cultures by using light to create a special interactive experience.

Honorable Mention

Birthday Cake

Chenxi Guo – Pratt Institute - Scott Lundberg (instructor)



There is no birthday without a birthday cake no matter which culture of origin. The jury felt it worked on multiple levels and kept revealing things both concrete and abstract. It spoke to the theme and an experience that everyone can relate to.

Honorable Mention

Ujala

Simi Sanghavi – Parsons New School of Design - Andrea Ruggiero (instructor)



Ujala means light in Hindi, is a DIY, sustainable and inexpensive luminaire. It is made of locally sourced, assembled and repurposed bowls and a solar powered battery-operated LED bulb that helps illuminate the lives and homes of rural India where power there are power cuts due to economic conditions and lack of a supply of electricity. In comparison to typical kerosene lamps which are toxic, this project uses natural plant-based materials like dried banana leaves, sugarcane, and jute strings and is safe to use. The luminaire works as a table light/lantern or as a general/pendant light. The jury added that there was a nice mix of high and low technology.



The winners were awarded \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$25 Amazon gift certificates for the Grand Prize Winner, Second Place Winner, Third Place, and Honorable Mentions respectively. All winners are invited to attend the upcoming 51st Annual IESNYC Lumen Awards.

In keeping with the global aspect of this year's theme, Natalie Rozot, IALD Education Member, MIES, CEO, PhoScope, delivered a keynote address about the work her organization is performing for underserved communities in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. She is the recipient of an IESNYC Lumen CITATION for Humanitarian Action for her Solar Lighting in Martissant in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

“By developing a lighting project specifically for members of a culture different than her own, Nathalie Rozot has done so much to inspire activism through lighting,” says Hardiman. “This made her the perfect guest speaker in keeping with the theme for this year's event.”

This year's participating schools are Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York School of Interior Design (NYSID), Parsons News School of Design, Pratt Institute, and SUNY's Westchester Community College.

The jury for the 2019 competition was composed of Stephen Bernstein, Cline Bettridge Bernstein Lighting Design (CBBLD); Elizabeth Donoff, Architectural Lighting (AL); Josh Heitler, Heitler Houstoun Architects; and Nathalie Rozot.

"This event has truly made a mark with the schools and the students and it certainly fulfills our mission of supporting education," says Caleb McKenzie, LC, IALDA, MIES, US Lighting Consultants and president of the IESNYC. "It's amazing how much work it takes from both our Student Lighting Competition Committee and the students who are competing to make this a successful annual event."

In addition to Gussert and Hardiman, the committee members are Joseph Belfer, Cerberus Consulting; John Delfino, Available Light; David del Rosario; WSP USA, Rinkinson Gohel, Bliss Fasman; Steven Greenberg, ROYGBIV; Linda Leconte, Edison Price Lighting; and Kass Negash, W. Allen Engineering. Shaun Fillion, NYSID/RAB Lighting, is the board advisor and Randy Sabedra, RS Lighting Design is the founding advisor.

Photos by Shaun Fillion
High Res images are available upon request
Video essay by Mike Gialloredo.

The IESNYC Student Lighting Competition is dedicated to Patricia DiMaggio the 85th president of the IESNYC, who founded the competition.

The IESNYC (www.iesnyc.org) is the New York City Section of the Illuminating Engineering Society. The IESNYC is a volunteer professional membership organization whose members share a mutual appreciation for and fascination with, all things lighting. They are lighting designers, architects, engineers, consultants, lighting manufacturers, lighting representatives, electrical distributors and allied professionals. IESNYC members are dedicated to promoting the art and science of illumination engineering to their members, professionals, the lighting industry, and the public through inspiring events, informative programs and educational series, social outreach, and networking opportunities.

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