



Sir Misha Black Awards

for Distinguished Services to Design Education



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6th, 2022. 00:01 GMT

The **2022 SIR MISHA BLACK MEDAL**
for Distinguished Services to Design Education
to be given to **PROFESSOR ELIZABETH TUNSTALL**
Dean of the Faculty of Design, OCAD University, Toronto, Canada

The 1851 Royal Commission and the Sir Misha Black Awards Committee have announced that the Sir Misha Black Medal for Distinguished Services to Design Education for 2022 will be awarded to Professor Elizabeth Tunstall, Dean of the Faculty of Design, OCAD University in Toronto, Canada.

She will receive the Medal at a Ceremony to be held at Imperial College London, at 6pm on Wednesday, October 12th 2022, where she will deliver a short address on her philosophy on design education.

Professor Elizabeth Tunstall was born in Columbia, South Carolina. She is a design anthropologist with a PhD and MA in Anthropology from Stanford University in California. She is a researcher, writer, educationalist, consultant and academic leader. Her professional career has led her to work with major commercial organisations, in education establishments in the United States, Australia and currently as Dean of the Faculty of Design at OCAD University, Canada's largest and oldest educational institute for Art and Design. In 2008 she organised the US National Design Policy Summit and Initiative focused on creating an actionable agenda of US Design Policy for: 'economic competitiveness and democratic governance'.

Professor Tunstall's core teaching values centre on 'respectful design, diversity, inclusion and decolonisation'. She encourages her students to 'be' in the world rather than 'act solely as they see the world'. In her many addresses to diverse audiences (she has given over 30 keynote addresses on five continents on Respectful Design) she has emphasised: 'Many design institutions are interested in diversity and inclusion, yet seem unwilling

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or unable to do the work of ‘decolonizing’ design through a critical engagement with design and culture’. She advocates that this work consists of two simultaneous actions: ‘the recognition of the intrinsic worth of different cultural ways of ‘design being’ and the systematic dismantling of current structural hierarchies. Her book on the subject, *Decolonizing Design: A Cultural Justice Guidebook* is due to be published in 2023 by MIT Press.

Professor Tunstall uses her position to embed Respectful Design education across wider public and private organisations and government policy. Amongst many, on which she serves are the Board of SheEO, Canadian Art Foundation, the City of Toronto’s Economic Development and Culture Covid Recovery Group and the UK Design Council’s Design Economy Ambassador Group.

The Sir Misha Black Awards Committee, in honouring Professor Tunstall for her distinguished services to design education, recognises that her approach to innovation in design education resonates far beyond this field and is true to the principles, initially championed by Sir Misha Black in his work, now more than forty-six years ago, at both the Royal College of Art and Imperial College London.

Professor Tunstall has commented:

“It moves my soul to have my commitment to a diverse inclusive and decolonial design education recognised by my global peers. To be the first Black woman to be awarded the Sir Misha Black Medal contributes to my mission to open possibilities for future Black women and femmes in design, while also expanding them for others.”

The Medal will be presented at the same ceremony as the **2022 Award for Innovation in Design Education**. See separate release.

www.mishablackawards.org.uk

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BACKGROUND NOTE FOR EDITORS

Set up to commemorate the legacy of Sir Misha Black, the **The Sir Misha Black Medal for Distinguished Services to Design Education** is awarded to individuals across the globe who have made a significant contribution to design education. First awarded in 1978, the Medal began life as a biennial event but has since become an annual date within the design world calendar.

In 2020, the Sir Misha Black Awards Committee came under the wing of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851. The inclusion of the Sir Misha Black Awards in the Royal Commission's portfolio, effective from February 2020, reinforces the Commission's mission to "increase the means of industrial education and extend the influence of science and art upon productive industry".

Sir Misha Black

Sir Misha Black was an industrial designer who with his partner Milner Gray, founded DRU (Design Research Unit) in the late 1940s. It became one of the first international, interdisciplinary design practices with major clients in industrial design, architecture and graphics. In 1959 Misha Black was appointed the first Professor of Industrial Design at the Royal College of Art, a post he held until his retirement in 1975. He was the most influential design teacher of his time, involved in international design affairs as well as being a gifted speaker and writer on design matters.

About the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 offers major awards to scientists and engineers for research, development and design. First established to stage the Great Exhibition in 1851, the Royal Commission's extraordinary history is founded on an inspired vision of the importance of education to economic success.

OCAD University

OCAD University is Canada's largest and oldest university for art and design. Students in 18 undergraduate programs and seven graduate programs learn how to use their creativity to address today's challenges. Our students benefit from hands-on studio learning in small class sizes and have access to state-of-the-art shops and studios for both traditional and digital creation. Alongside a diverse and supportive team of instructors and peers, our students gain employable skills that will help them get paid doing what they love while driving Canada's creative economy. Our graduates work in different sectors such as urban planning, environmental design, gaming, film, animation, publishing, illustration, graphic design, visual arts and arts administration. Learn more about OCAD University at ocadu.ca.