



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Contact: Shannon Planchon, 503-229-6062, shannon.planchon@biz.state.or.us

Meagan Atiyeh, 503-986-0084, meagan.atiyeh@biz.state.or.us

Oregon Arts Commission Announces Individual Artist Fellowships

The Oregon Arts Commission is pleased to announce the 2010 Individual Artist Fellowship recipients. The Fellowship Program honors Oregon's professional artists and their artistic achievements and supports their efforts to advance their careers. In selecting artists to receive the \$3,000 Fellowships, the Commission looks to Oregon artists of outstanding talent, demonstrated ability and commitment to the creation of new work.

A review panel of artists and arts professionals considered 82 applicants on the basis of the quality of the applicant's work, their sustained professional achievement, and potential for future contribution to the field. The following thirteen fellowships were approved by the Oregon Arts Commission:

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| Christine Clark, Portland | Sculpture/Metals |
| Bruce Conkle, Portland | Sculpture/Installation/Mixed media |
| Tannaz Farsi, Eugene | Sculpture/Installation |
| Erin Rose Gardner, Portland | Sculpture/Metals |
| Damien Gilley, Portland | Site specific installation |
| Heidi Preuss Grew, Salem | Sculpture/Ceramics |
| Shelley Jordan, Portland | Painting/Media |
| Jenene Nagy, Portland | Sculpture/Installation |
| Kelly Neidig, Portland | Painting |
| Heidi Schwegler, Portland | Sculpture/Metals |
| Marie Sivak, Beaverton | Sculpture/Installation |
| Stephen Slappe, Portland | Installation/Media |
| Mark R. Smith, Portland | Painting |

Many of these artists are utilizing very traditional techniques: quilting, stone carving, metalworking, drawing, drafting. Yet they are using these practices to achieve very contemporary artworks that speak to cultural identity, consumerism, political and environmental concerns. "More than ever, Oregon artists are engaging with a global art world," says Arts Commission visual arts coordinator Meagan Atiyeh, "exhibiting, studying and

making art that is relevant to Berlin, Reykjavik and Beijing as well as Portland, Eugene, New York and San Francisco.”



Christine Clark

Christine Clark has been a practicing craft artist for over 25 years. On the art faculty at Oregon College of Art and Craft for many years, Clarke has had exhibitions at Nine Gallery, Portland; Linfield College, McMinnville; Robert Daniel Gallery, Seattle; Savanna College of Art and Design; and The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, among others. Clark’s recent body of work uses wire as a primary material: bent, welded and straightened by hand in a labor-intensive process to form “three-dimensional contour drawings”.



Bruce Conkle

Bruce Conkle often explores a world he refers to as “Eco Baroque” using or referencing natural materials placed in extravagant situations. From drawing to photographic works, installation and public art, Conkle’s projects each communicate an underlying concern for the environment. Conkle has had solo exhibitions, alone and in tandem with collaborator Marne Lucas, at the Art Gym, Marylhurst University; Jack and the Pelican Presents, Brooklyn, NY; The Living Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland; and Rocks Box Fine Art, Portland. He recently completed two public art commissions at Portland State University and for TriMet Max Light Rail. Conkle is an Instructor of Art and Design at Portland State University and Portland Community College.



Tannaz Farsi

Tannaz Farsi's installations incorporate objects and materials found in daily experience. An Assistant Professor of Sculpture at the University of Oregon since 2008, Farsi has shown her work widely, including solo exhibitions at Ohge Ltd, Seattle; Sculpture Center, Cleveland; and upcoming at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, Wilmington. She was included in the Tacoma Art Museum's 2009 Northwest Biennial.



Erin Rose Gardner

Metalsmith Erin Gardner's work has been exhibited internationally, including Galerie Rob Koudijs, Amsterdam; The Custard Factory Gallery, Birmingham, England; John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin; Widney Moore Studio, Portland; 2005 Craft Biennial: Oregon College of Art and Craft; and in a Portland International Airport installation, curated by the Regional Arts & Culture Council. Upon graduation from the University of Oregon, Gardner was awarded a Windgate Fellowship, honoring the work of the best emerging graduates in the United States. The award allowed her to research mass-production in Guangdong Province in China, continuing her examination of craft, production, and sentimental objects.



Damien Gilley

Damien Gilley's work has been exhibited nationally at venues including the Art Museum of South Texas, Las Vegas Art Museum, FiveThirtyThree Gallery in Los Angeles, Arthouse in Austin, and in Portland at Disjecta, Worksound, Gallery Homeland and Rocksbox Fine Art. His recent collaborative exhibition with Modou Dieng was listed as a "Critic's Pick" in *Art Forum*. Gilley is Co-Founder and Curator of Igloo Gallery in Portland. He recently completed a public art commission for the PSU Academic and Student Recreation Center in Portland.



Heidi Preuss Grew

Ceramicist Heidi Preuss Grew creates characters that straddle real and fictional worlds. For the past three years, porcelain has been the main medium for her figures, chosen, as the artist describes, for the material's "delicacy and sensual responsiveness". Grew's work has been exhibited internationally, including the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Salem; Keramik-Museum Rheinsberg, Brandenburg, Germany; Forum for Contemporary Ceramics, Halle, Germany; and the International Gallery of Ceramic Art, Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic. She was included in the 2006 Portland Art Museum Oregon Biennial. Grew is an Associate Professor of Art at Willamette University in Salem.



Shelly Jordan

Shelly Jordan's work combines traditional drawing and painting methods with animation and installation. Her projects have been exhibited at galleries and institutions including The Art Gym, Linda Hodges Gallery and Frye Museum of Art, Seattle; Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland; the 1997 Portland Art Museum Oregon Biennial, and the 1995 Northwest Biennial at the Tacoma Art Museum. Her first animated painting "Family History" was included in the Northwest Film & Video Festival, Sydney Underground Film Festival, Marrickville, Australia and Radar Hamburg Independent Film Festival, Hamburg, Germany, among others. Jordan is a Professor of Art at Oregon State University.



Jenene Nagy

Jenene Nagy is a Portland-based artist and curator. She received her MFA from the University of Oregon in 2005, and has since gathered much critical attention through her own work and curatorial efforts. Her architectural interventions have been shown at the New American Art Union, PDX Contemporary Art Window Project and Portland Modern Window Project. Nagy has also had solo and two person exhibitions at Linfield College, The Art Gym, and in the Portland Art Museum's Apex Series. With partner Josh Smith, Jenene co-founded Tilt Gallery and Project Space, now an ongoing curatorial project, Tilt Export.



Kelly Neidig

Kelly Neidig's abstract landscapes are filled with brightly colored stripes that define a vast land, interspersed with the occasional object of industry. Her references are drawn from a childhood in Pittsburgh, trips to see her grandparents in the country, nearly four years living and travelling in the Southwest, and now, since 2005, the Pacific Northwest. Neidig's works have been shown at the Lucia Douglas Gallery, Bellingham; RetroFit, Seattle, and were included in the 2009 "Representing Abstraction" at the Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner, WA. She is both President and an active artist in Portland Open Studios.



Heidi Schwegler

For the 2009 Museum of Contemporary Craft exhibition, "Call and Response," art historian and critic Sue Taylor wrote of Heidi Schwegler's work: "Schwegler wants to offer viewers something 'more than simply made,' something exquisitely crafted and at the same time provocative and meaningful..." The artist's recent work, for that exhibition and another at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art Study Gallery, transforms existing objects of little value (found at Goodwill, Ebay, 7-11) into fine art works through simple techniques of metalsmithing applied obsessively. Schwegler's objects have been exhibited at Oregon College of Arts & Craft, Milepost 5, Portland Community College Sylvania and Froelick Gallery in Portland, as well as

venues such as the Tacoma Art Museum, Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston; Rollins Fine Art, New York; and Maine College of Art. In 2010, she will take a leave of absence from her teaching at Oregon College of Art and Craft to attend two residencies: the Beijing International Artist Platform and the Nes Artist Residency in Skagaströnd, Iceland.



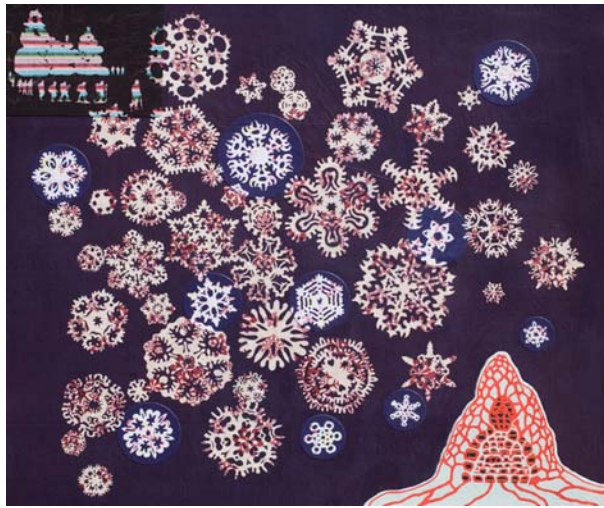
Marie Sivak

Over the course of her career, Marie Sivak has worked in installation, sculpture, video and drawing. The artist's recent exhibitions have layered stone, fabric, drawings on paper and projection. Her works are imbued with personal memory and mythology. Says art writer Lois Allan: "The depth of content in her work... is found in a skillful blending of materials, images and craftsmanship. As much as in the images, content is embedded in her materials of choice and her use of them. It is challenging art, but it pays off handsomely." Sivak has shown internationally, including recently at Galerie Kurt im Hirsch, Berlin; A.I.R and Nancy Margolis galleries, New York; The Art Shop, Abergavenny, Wales, UK; and locally at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Laura Russo Gallery, Portland Community College and Portland State University.



Stephen Slappe

A multidisciplinary artist living and working in Portland since 2001, Stephen Slappe creates both participatory projects, such as *We Are Legion*, an ongoing web-based project commissioned by PICA for TBA:09, as well as installations utilizing sound, video and sculpture to create immersive environments. In 2008, he was selected by gallerist Ruth Ann Brown for her important *Couture* series at the New American Art Union, and his work has also been exhibited at Tilt Gallery and Project Space, The Art Gym, Worksound Gallery, Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow, Scotland; Northwest Film & Video Festival, PDX Film Festival and Artist's Television Access, San Francisco. Slappe is an Assistant Professor at Pacific Northwest College of Art.



Mark R. Smith

“In making this work, I was concerned with creating artworks that would read like contemporary folk tales much in the manner of older 19th century story quilts.” Mark Smith’s paintings convey the care and detail of quilts, with carefully placed and painted fabrics. Smith has mined differing cultural inspirations for his symbols over the years, including sporting culture and, more recently, ideas of security and freedom. Smith’s work has exhibited widely, including The Art Gym, Portland Community College, Pacific Northwest College of Art, Fresh Trouble, curated by Jeff Jahn; The Drawing Center, New York; Hallie Ford Museum of Art, and Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, where he is represented.

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission’s expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

More information about the Oregon Arts Commission: www.oregonartscommission.org