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Oregon Arts Commission Awards Ten Artist Fellowships

*Grants Recognize Excellence in Visual Arts: Sculpture, Painting,
Photography, Mixed Media and Installation*

The Oregon Arts Commission has recognized ten Oregon artists with Artist Fellowship awards of \$3,000. The Commission's fellowships recognize outstanding work created by artists throughout Oregon, and consider both past achievement and future promise in the arts. This year, the program considered artists involved in the visual arts.

The purpose of the Commission's Fellowship program is to honor Oregon's professional artists and their artistic achievements and to support their efforts in advancing their careers. The Commission chooses Oregon artists of outstanding talent, demonstrated ability and commitment to the creation of new work(s) to receive its Fellowships. Artists may use the \$3,000 fellowship grants to complete work in progress or embark on a new body of work, undertake research, study, or experiment with new materials or media.

Seventy applications were reviewed by panelists who made recommendations based on the quality of the artist's work as well as their record of sustained professional activity and achievement. This year's review panel included artist and past fellowship recipient Stephen Hayes (Portland); Larry Fong, Curator of American and Regional Art, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (Eugene); painter and independent curator Kes Woodward (La Conner, WA); and Portland Art Museum Curator of Photography Terry Toedtmeier (Portland).

The artists selected for 2006 Fellowships are:

MJ Anderson, Nehalem, sculpture
Kevin Burrus, Portland, sculpture
Brenden Clenaghan, Portland, painting/mixed media
Sarah Hall, Portland, sculpture
Cynthia Lahti, Portland, sculpture/watercolor/drawing
Jim Lommasson, Portland, photography
Geraldine Ondrizek, Portland, installation/mixed media
Storm Tharp, Portland, sculpture/painting/drawing
Grace Weston, Portland, photography
Jiro Yonezawa, Portland, craft/sculpture

Background on each of the selected artists follows.



MJ Anderson, Nehalem

MJ Anderson is an active member of the Oregon Coast arts community, as a teacher, maker and supporter of arts. Her figurative marble sculptures have been exhibited widely, including the Contemporary Crafts Museum and Gallery, Bellevue Art Museum, Sitka Center, The Art Gym, and 1981 and 1987 Oregon Biennials. “Anderson’s hand is evident in the shaping of the marble, which is part of their success as thoughtful objects,” commented panelist Stephen Hayes. Anderson was awarded a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 1993. She is represented by Alysia Duckler Gallery, Portland and Davidson Galleries, Seattle.

Link to Anderson’s work at Alysia Duckler Gallery: www.alysiaducklergallery.com/Artist-Detail.cfm?ArtistsID=351



Kevin Burrus, Portland

Kevin Burrus is a sculptor working with turned wood and reclaimed materials—*National Geographic* magazines—for example. His crafted objects are minimal but eye-catching. As panelist Kes Woodward observed, “Burrus can make the crossover between traditional craft and postmodern materials.” His work has shown at the Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA; SOFA, Chicago; Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery; and Del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, among others. Burrus is represented by PDX Gallery, Portland.

Link to Burrus’s work at PDX Gallery: www.pdxgallery.com/main/artists/artists_burrus.html



Brenden Clenaghan, Portland

An Adjunct Professor of Art at Portland State University, Brenden Clenaghan's oil and acrylic paintings use textures layered on wood panel. Clenaghan's paintings have been exhibited widely, including the 1999 Oregon Biennial, Tacoma Art Museum, and The Art Gym. Panelist Kes Woodward commented: "This was some of the most original work that we saw." Clenaghan is represented by Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery, Portland, and Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago.

Link to Clenaghan's work at Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery:

www.pulliamdeffenbaugh.com/Artist-Detail.cfm?ArtistsID=176



Sarah Hall, Portland

A graduate of Oregon College of Art & Craft, Sarah Hall's intricately carved figures, the most recent of which depict sleeping pregnant women, incorporate Asian, Moorish and Celtic designs. Hall has a varied list of exhibitions, including Hewlett Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University; Zoller Gallery, PA; Rhode Island School of Design; Nancy Sachs Gallery, St. Louis; and locally at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center and , Portland Community College's Northview Gallery, and The Portland Building.

Link to Hall's website: www.sarahhallstudios.com



Cynthia Lahti, Portland

Cynthia Lahti creates sculptures of thin clay and plaster and drawings on tissue paper and found ephemera. Panelist Kes Woodward commented, “Lahti’s works at first may seem naïve, but continue to make challenging universal and emotional statements.” Lahti has exhibited at The Art Gym, Core Sample, Reed College’s Cooley Gallery, Maryhill Museum of Art, Laura Russo Gallery, Nine, Bullseye Connection and PDX Galleries. She holds a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design.

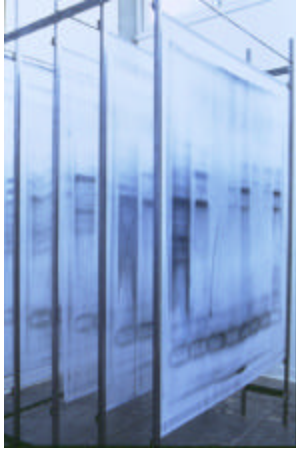
Link to Lahti’s work at PDX Gallery: www.pdxgallery.com/main/artists/artists_lahti.html



Jim Lommasson, Portland

Ten years ago, photographer Jim Lommasson stumbled into a boxing gym. His photography documenting that culture culminated in the publication of *Shadow Boxers: Sweat, Sacrifice and the will to Survive in American Boxing Gyms*, a book collaboration with writer Katherine Dunn which received the Dorthea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize from Duke University. “Lommasson taps into the documentary strength of photography,” commented panelist Terry Toedtemeier. An active member of Portland’s photography community, Lommasson’s work has been exhibited widely, including The Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University, The Art Gym at Marylhurst, Blue Sky Gallery, Portland Center for the Visual Arts, and Oregon College of Art & Craft. He serves as the Chair of the Regional Arts & Culture Council’s Visual Chronicle of Portland.

Link to Lommasson’s website: www.lommassonpictures.com/shadowboxers/



Geraldine Ondrizek, Portland

An Associate Professor of Art at Reed College, Geraldine Ondrizek's recent installations use scientific imagery of cellular tissue and DNA that are then silk screened, sewn and embroidered onto cloth. Panelist Terry Toedtemeier commented: "Ondrizek incorporates the stereotypes of women's work with cutting edge technology. Her work is very powerful visually and conceptually." Ondrizek has exhibited these works as installation internationally, and has had solo exhibitions at the Maryhill Museum; Gas Works, London; Cooley Gallery, Reed College; The Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington; and The Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, PA.

Link to Ondrizek's Reed College page: <http://academic.reed.edu/art/faculty/ondrizek/>



Storm Tharp, Portland

Storm Tharp's sculpture, painting and drawing has been shown at the Bellevue Art Museum, Salt Lake Art Center, Core Sample, the biennial Art Slate exhibit in Condon, and PICA, as well as by PDX and Jamison/Thomas Galleries in Portland. He was included in the Portland Art Museum's 1997 and 1999 Oregon Biennials, for which he was awarded the Museum Award and Juror's Award, respectively. Tharp uses his talent as a draftsman to create both figurative and abstract works, be they on paper, canvas or sculptural. Noted panelist Stephen Hayes, "Tharp has his finger in a lot of different pots, but he is clearly up to the task of pursuing them all."

Link to Tharp's work at PDX Gallery: www.pdxgallery.com/main/artists/artists_tharp.html



Grace Weston, Portland

Fourteen years ago, Grace Weston left behind the tradition of black and white photography and returned to a studio to create brightly colored, humorous and allegorical scenes, which she then photographs. Panelist Larry Fong describes her work as “concocted tableaux of unreality.” Since 1978, Weston’s photographs haven been included in exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe. This year she was commissioned to illustrate an article for *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

Link to Weston’s website: www.gracewestonphoto.com/images.html



Jiro Yonezawa, Portland

Learning the art of bamboo basketry has been Jiro Yonezawa’s life work. Yonezawa’s intricate bamboo sculptures are coated with urushi, a Japanese lacquer. Their forms are a departure from traditional shapes. Yonezawa’s work has been exhibited at SOFA, Chicago; The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; The Museum of Arts and Design, NY; Crafts Council, London; Bellevue Art Museum and the American Craft Museum. He is represented by Butters Gallery, Portland.

Link to Yonezawa’s work at Butters Gallery: www.buttersgallery.com/Artist-Detail.cfm?ArtistsID=418

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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 the Economic 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.

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