



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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Individual Artist Fellowships Announced Including Honorary Joan Shipley Award

The Oregon Arts Commission announces the 2013 Individual Artist Fellowship recipients. 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 considered 77 applicants working in literature and the performing arts on the basis of the quality of the applicant's work, their sustained professional achievement, and potential for future contribution to the field.

This year, the Oregon Arts Commission continues to make a special, honorary Joan Shipley Award to one Fellow, recognizing the great Oregon arts leader Joan Shipley, who passed away in 2011. Shipley was a collector, philanthropist and supporter of many arts and humanities organizations. In 2005, she and her husband John received an Oregon Governor's Arts Award. Many in the arts community also counted her as a mentor and friend. The Arts Commission intends to continue the special honor each year.

The following thirteen artists were awarded fellowships:

Performing Arts:

Holcombe Waller, Portland; Joan Shipley Award, performance artist, musician
Molly Barth, Eugene; flutist
Jonathan Walters, Portland; director, actor
Joe Manis, Eugene; jazz saxophonist
Susan Chan, Portland; pianist

Writers:

Dao Strom, Portland; literature: memoir and nonfiction
Andrea Stolowitz, Portland; playwright
M.E. Hope, Klamath Falls; poetry
Kirsten Rian, Portland; literature: nonfiction
Evan Schneider, Portland; literature: fiction
Scott Sparling, Lake Oswego; literature: fiction
Geri Doran, Eugene; poetry
Mark Allen Cunningham, Portland; literature: fiction

Biographical summaries of the selected artists follow:

Oregon Arts Commission FY2013 Fellowship Recipients

Molly Barth

Described as “ferociously talented” (by *The Oregonian*), flutist Molly Alicia Barth is an active solo, chamber, and orchestral musician, specializing in the music of today. As a founding member of the new music sextet eighth blackbird, Molly toured extensively throughout the world, recorded four CDs with Cedille Records, and was granted the 2000 Naumburg Chamber Music Award. She took first prize at the 1998 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, received the 2007 Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance, and is a three-time recipient of the CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

As co-founder of the Beta Collide New Music Project, Barth collaborates with individuals from a broad spectrum of disciplines, including art, sound sculpture and theoretical physics.

She is the Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Oregon, has taught at Willamette University and held residencies at the University of Chicago and University of Richmond. Barth plays a Burkart flute and piccolo, and a 1953 Haynes alto flute.

Susan Chan

In her second New York recital at Carnegie Hall, the *New York Concert Review* described Susan Chan as “a thoughtful musician and a sensitive player” who “brought revelations” by performing “the invaluable service of opening up new musical worlds to her audience.” Susan Chan performs extensively as a soloist and chamber musician, where she actively promotes music composed by female composers from Asia. As part of her current commission project with award-winning Chinese-American composers Zhou Long and Chen Yi, Chan recently premiered Zhou’s “Pianobells” in Kansas City and Portland.

Chan has performed at New York’s Carnegie Hall, Chicago’s Cultural Center; Chopin’s birth house in Zelazowa, Wola, and the Steinway Halls in London, as well as the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall and the Dnepropetrovsk State Philharmonic in Ukraine. In addition to winning first prize in the Hong Kong Young Musicians Award Competition and the Mozart Piano Concerto Competition at Indiana University, Chan was awarded the Diploma of Excellence in Piano by the World Piano Teachers Association in 2011. Susan Chan holds a Doctor of Music Degree from Indiana University and Mphil and BA degrees from the University of Hong Kong. She is currently an Associate Professor of Music and the Piano Area Co-Coordinator at Portland State University.

Mark Allen Cunningham

Mark Allen’s first published fiction, a short story about a taxidermist, appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review* when he was twenty-four. His first novel, *The Green Age of Asher Witherow*, was selected by the American Booksellers Association as a #1 Book Sense Pick and was a finalist for the 2005 Book Sense Book of the Year Award. His second novel, *Lost Son*, about the poet Rainier

Maria Rilke, was inducted into the official Rilke bibliography by a consortium of European scholars.

In spring of 2012 Mark Allen's short story collection *Date of Disappearance* appeared in an illustrated limited-edition run of 300 published by Atelier26 Books, a micro-press he founded on the basis of a successful fundraiser organized through the United States Artists funding platform, USA Projects. He was awarded a 2007 Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship, a 2010 Yaddo residency, and a 2012 Leslie Bradshaw Fellowship through Literary Arts. He currently serves as a scholar/facilitator in community discussions for Oregon Humanities' Conversation Project.

Geri Doran

Geri Doran's poems have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*; *The New Republic*; *New England Review*; *Southwest Review*; *Virginia Quarterly Review*; *TriQuarterly*; *Ninth Letter*; *32 Poems*, and several other journals. She has received numerous awards and fellowships including the Amy Lowell Poetry Travelling Scholarship (2005-2006), the John Ciardi Poetry Fellowship, the Walt Whitman Award of the Academy of American Poets (2004), and the Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Poetry at Stanford University (2001-2003).

Henri Cole describes Doran's writing as "intelligent, restrained, sorrowful." Doran's first book of poems, *Resin*, won the Walt Whitman Award in 2004, and her most recent collection of poetry, *Sanderlings*, was a 2011 finalist for an Oregon Book Award.

Doran holds an AB from Vassar College and an MFA from the University of Florida. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Oregon.

M. E. Hope

M.E. Hope was born in Wallowa County, and spent her first twenty years in the west. Now living in Klamath Falls, she has written for publication in *Rattle*; *High Desert Journal*; *Moving Mountain*; *Poets of the American West* and the *Jefferson Monthly*. She was a 2001 Fishtrap Fellow.

The Past is Clean is her first chapbook.

Joe Manis

An Oregon native, Joe Manis led his own jazz trio for over a decade. He is both a performer, touring nationally and internationally, and an educator, presenting clinics and master classes and serving on the faculty of Umpqua Community College.

His music is influenced by an eclectic mix of improvisational music styles and possesses a level of intensity and high energy. A former member of the internationally-recognized band, Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Manis has performed at the Oregon Bach Festival with the Eugene Opera Orchestra and with Thomas Mapfumo and the Blacks Unlimited at New York's Carnegie Hall. His second solo album, *Volume 2*, will be released in 2013.

Kirsten Rian

Kirsten Rian is a widely published essayist and poet. Her work has appeared in magazines, international literary journals and anthologies, including *Daylight*; *Rhino* (runner-up 2011 Founder's Prize); *Broad River Review*; *Portland Magazine*, and *Upstreet*. She was recently nominated for inclusion in the *Best New Poets* anthology.

She is the author of three books, the forthcoming *Chord* to be released in early 2013 through Wordcraft of Oregon. She co-authored the top Northwest and now sold-out anthology, *Walking Bridges Using Poetry as a Compass* (Urban Adventure Press). Her anthology of Sierra Leonean poetry, *Kalashnikov in the Sun* (Pika Press), was released in 2010. A copy of this anthology is in every classroom in Sierra Leone, and is used as a text book on discussing and processing war at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

She continues to work with refugees and immigrants as a volunteer language facilitator for non-native speakers at Multnomah County Library. She is currently an adjunct professor of writing at Portland State University and Linfield College, teaches with regional organizations like Fishtrap, and is a freelance writer.

Evan Schneider

Evan Schneider's fiction has been an exploration of debt: financial, emotional, and interpersonal. His writings, both prose and poetry, have been published in *Seedhouse*, *Matter*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and several other national and regional publications. He has received numerous awards, including the 2007 *Matter* Prize for Nonfiction, and has presented at literary conferences around the United States and Canada. Schneider's first novel, *A Simple Machine*, *Like the Lever* was published by Propeller Books in 2011.

Schneider works as Communications Manager at Literary Arts in Portland, overseeing all print collateral. He holds a BA in English from Colorado State University and an MA in English from University of Rhode Island.

Scott Sparling

In 2010, Scott Sparling's *Wire to Wire* was published by Tin House Books. The book was selected by *Publishers Weekly* as a pick of the week; it was recommended by *Poets & Writers* and praised by *Playboy*, *HTML Giant*, *The Collagist* and others, and received a Michigan Notable Book Award.

Sparling received an Individual Artists Award from the Seattle Arts Commission and a King County Arts Commission Award in 1988, one year before moving to Portland.

His short story, "Walking," was a winner in the 2006 Wordstock fiction contest. Sparling is now completing his second book, *Dogs Run Free*, set in the Pacific Northwest against the backdrop of the Occupy Movement.

Andrea Stolowitz

Andrea Stolowitz's plays have been presented at The Cherry Lane (NYC), The Old Globe (SD), The Long Wharf (CT), New York Stage and Film (NY), and Portland Center Stage (OR). The *LA*

Times calls her work "heartbreaking" and the *Orange County Register* characterizes her approach as a "brave refusal to sugarcoat...issues and tough decisions."

A recipient of Artists Repertory Theater's \$25,000 New Play Commission, Stolowitz will premiere her newest work, *ITHAKA*, at the theater in 2013. She is a 2012 Oregon Literary Fellow, and the inaugural playwright to receive a grant from the Sustainable Arts Foundation. Her latest play, *ANTARKTIKOS*, was workshopped nationwide at New Harmony Project (IN), Portland Center Stage's JAW Festival, and at Seattle Repertory Theater. Pittsburgh Playhouse mounts the world premiere in 2013.

The Old Globe Theater world-premiered *KNOWING CAIRO*, which earned San Diego's "Billie" Best New Play Award and an *LA Times*' Critic's Pick. It is published by Playscripts Inc. and continues to be presented nationally and internationally.

A Walter E. Dakin Fellow at The Sewanee Writers Conference, she has been awarded residencies at Ledig House, Soapstone, and Hedgebrook, and grants from North Carolina, Oregon, and private foundations. She is a founding member of Playwrights West and the Portland Regional Representative to the Dramatists Guild. An MFA playwriting alumna of UC-San Diego, Andrea teaches at Willamette University and the University of Portland and has served on the theater studies faculty at Duke University and UC-San Diego.

Dao Strom

As a writer and musician working in multiple mediums of "voice," Vietnamese-Danish-American Dao Strom was born in 1973 in Saigon, Vietnam to two writers. She fled the country with her mother in 1975 and grew up in California. Thus her creative work forges a "middle world" perspective that speaks to the duality and malleability of a multicultural, or multi-divergent life experience.

A writer of prose, poetry and songs, Strom has published two books: *The Gentle Order of Girls and Boys* (2006) and *Grass Roof, Tin Roof* (2003). In addition, she has recorded albums: *Everything the Blooms Wrecks Me* (2008) and *Send Me Home* (2004). Her current project is a hybrid music-literary EP album and chapbook, *We Were Meant to Be a Gentle People*, her first endeavor at creating an "in-between" form to house and express her disparate "voices."

Holcombe Waller

Holcombe Waller is a singer/songwriter whose writing and composition process integrates video and staging design. He creates music, videos and interdisciplinary performances that explore the boundaries of discipline, genre and venue. Waller uses nostalgia, intimacy and the search for spiritual meaning to create musical and performance art meant to shift the defensive coping mechanisms people used to gird themselves against the onslaught of everyday life.

Since moving to Portland in January of 2005, Waller created three albums and five interdisciplinary performances that have been shown locally as well as internationally. He has won several awards, fellowships and grants including a 2008 MAP Fund Award, a National Performance Network Commission Grant, and a Professional Development Grant from the Regional Arts and Culture Council. His work has appeared at Sundance Film Festival, PICA's

Time Based Arts Festival, the Mission Theater, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Queer Zagreb Festival in Croatia, among other venues. Waller was named a United States Artist Berresford Fellow in December 2012.

Jonathan Walters

Jonathan Walters began his career in Poznan, Poland with acclaimed street theatres Biuro Podrozy and Teatr Usta Usta. Since founding Hand2Mouth in Portland, he has directed 18 original new theater works that have toured the West Coast, New York City, Europe and Latin America. In addition to performing Walters has taught workshops and led trainings in the Northwest, Midwest and Europe, including guest teaching positions at Portland Community College, the Metropolitan Learning Center, Reed College, University of Oregon, Willamette University, Western Washington University, Lewis & Clark College and Northwestern University.

His theater work has been reviewed and written up in *the New York Times*, *The New York Post*, *American Theatre Magazine*, *Willamette Week*, *The Oregonian*, *Time Out NY*, *Just Out*, *KBOO Radio*, *The Portland Tribune*, *The Portland Mercury*, *The Seattle Times*, *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, and *The Stranger*.

Walters' work has been recognized with two Drammy Awards from the Portland Area Theatre Alliance: Outstanding Ensemble Acting in 2007 and Outstanding Production in 2011.

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 Oregon Business 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 grant-making, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature, federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.