



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

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**Avantika Bawa honored with Joan Shipley Award;
2014 Individual Artist Fellowships Announced**

Avantika Bawa, a Portland-based artist who is an assistant professor of fine arts at Washington State University in Vancouver, Wash., is the 2014 recipient of the Oregon Arts Commission's honorary Joan Shipley Award. Bawa leads a group of 13 Oregon artists selected from a pool of more than 190 applicants from 35 Oregon cities for the OAC's 2014 Individual Artist Fellowships. The 2014 fellowships, awarded to artists from Portland, Eugene and Enterprise, support artists working in visual arts and design and include small financial stipends.

The Joan Shipley Award is named for 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 OAC fellowship program supports the more than 20,000 artists who call Oregon home. Fellows are selected by a review panel of arts professionals from Oregon and beyond who consider artists of outstanding talent, demonstrated ability and commitment to the creation of new work(s); their recommendations are submitted to the Arts Commission.

The following artists were awarded 2014 fellowships:

Avantika Bawa, Portland (Joan Shipley Fellow)
Modou Dieng, Portland
Laura Fritz, Portland
Surabhi Ghosh, Eugene
Anna Gray, Portland

Sabina Haque, Portland
Allison Hyde, Eugene
Anya Kivarkis, Eugene
Ryan LaBar, Enterprise
Ellen Lesperance, Portland
Ralph Pugay, Portland
Samantha Wall, Portland
Terri Warpinski, Eugene

Brief biographies:



Drawing Intervention, 2013. Tyvek, wood, graphite and paint

Avantika Bawa, Portland (Joan Shipley Award)

Avantika Bawa's restrained sculptures make use of the material complex of a site. They reference past, or interrupt the present, configuration of the gallery or landscape. Says Bawa, "I am interested in transforming the act of drawing into sculptural gestures that react formally and also conceptually to architectural spaces and their history." Bawa received her MFA from School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including Suyama Space in Seattle, Wash.; in Portland at Disjecta Contemporary Art Center, Half/Dozen Gallery and Autzen Gallery at Portland State University; and in group exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Georgia and New York's The Drawing Center and Smack Mellon. Her work has been reviewed in publications such as *The New York Times*, *Art Papers*, *Art Lies*, *Art India* and *Art Asia Pacific*. Bawa is an assistant professor of

fine arts at Washington State University, Vancouver, WA. She is represented by Saltworks Gallery, Atlanta and Gallery Maskara, Mumbai, India.



Mbarick, 2012. Mixed media

Modou Dieng, Portland

Modou Dieng is a multidisciplinary artist working in mixed-media, painting, photography and installation. Dieng draws from archival sources, topography and combined materials and forms to address historical issues in urban settings, race, social status, gender and belonging. Dieng has exhibited with numerous galleries and museums including: Steve Turner

Gallery, Los Angeles; Pascal Polar Gallery, Brussels; Carousel du Louvre, Paris; Sarah Lawrence College New York; Museum of Contemporary African and Diaspora Art, New York; Casa Encendida, Madrid; The Studio Museum in Harlem, JoBurg Art Fair, South Africa; Salon Del Mobile, Milan; Basel Art Fair; and is scheduled for *Portland2014* at Disjecta. He is the founder and curator of Worksound Space (Portland) and received his MFA from San Francisco Art Institute. Dieng is an assistant professor at Pacific Northwest College of Art.



Ingress (area view), 2013
Wood, plexiglass, aluminum, cast resin, lighting elements

Laura Fritz, Portland

Laura Fritz's recent exhibitions include the Des Moines Arts Center in Des Moines, Iowa, and FalseFront Gallery and Worksound in Portland. Her work has received critical attention from *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Art Ltd*, among other publications. Fritz's sculptures, using light, resin and the vernacular of furniture, subvert our expectations of scale—her installations are at once expansive and also require close viewing and

attention. She received a BFA, Cum Laude, from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Says Fritz: "I am interested in the cool tension that results from the efforts of the mind to create connections between disparate elements before they are understood. Scientists refer to these cognitive phenomena as *apophenia*."



Striations (disks) & Striations (horizon), 2013
Mixed Media

Surabhi Ghosh, Eugene

Ghosh received an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2004. Her works, sculptures and installations demonstrate the craftsman's attention to finish and material quality. "My work draws on the liminal power of the decorative," says Ghosh, "Disregarded visual information that permeates cultural spaces - the decorative hides in plain sight." Her recent exhibition list includes Ditch Projects in Springfield, Ore.; The

Bike Room in Chicago, Ill.; Museum of Contemporary Craft in Portland; the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon; and upcoming in 2014 at Culture Room in New York. She is an assistant professor at the University of Oregon.



Verb III, 2013
Knotted cotton, cement
Courtesy the Artists and PDX
Contemporary Art

Anna Gray, Portland

Says Anna Gray of her collaborative practice with Ryan Wilson Paulsen, "Our process is propelled by a preoccupation with how the speculative realm of language and theory become activated through bodies, habits and technologies." This interest in discourse is evident in their work, which takes the form of sculptural or two-dimensional objects at times, yet may also exist in performance, mail art or text document, each strongly tied to narrative. Recent exhibitions include *Portland2012*, *Disjecta*; The Art Gym, Marylhurst University; PICA'S 2011 TBA Festival; and The Tacoma Art Museum's *10th NW Biennial*. Gray and Wilson Paulsen have recently been finalists for both the Contemporary Northwest Art Awards at the Portland Art Museum and the Brink Award, Henry Gallery, University of Washington. Gray received an MFA from Portland State

University in 2010 and a BFA from Pacific Northwest College of Art. She is represented by PDX Contemporary Art in Portland.



City of Lights: 24.° N, 67.° E, Nishana Series, 2013
Oil and archival pigment print on canvas mounted on wood

Sabina Haque, Portland

"Raised in Karachi by my American and Pakistani parents," explains Sabina Haque, "I have spent half my life in the USA. This cross-cultural experience informs my art, which presents imaginary, dreamlike places as a way of exploring time, memory and shared emotion. I blend Persian miniatures, oil painting and digital media to create alternative realities." Haque's paintings are richly colorful and seemingly decorative while taking on such significant subjects as global politics seen through contemporary pop culture - the landscape of Karachi

(re)presented by the video game "Call of Duty," for example. Haque received a MFA in Painting from Boston University in 1998. Recent exhibitions include Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan; Littman Gallery, Portland State University; PNCA, Portland; and the South Asian

Visual Arts Center, Gallery 1313, in Toronto, Canada. Haque is the James DePriest Professor of Art at Portland State University.



Echo, 2013
Relief print on Mullberry paper

Allison Hyde, Eugene

A printmaker by training, Allison Hyde's current work in progress includes prints made directly from the floor of a small house, as she describes as "documenting the living space in its entirety. It is my hope that the viewer of the piece could walk with their mind from room to room, imagining subtle moments of the house's history and projecting some of their own experiences as well." Hyde received an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Oregon in 2011, where she is now adjunct instructor of

letterpress. Her work has recently been exhibited at the LaVerne Krause Gallery in Eugene; the Janet Turner Print Museum in Chico, Calif.; Seattle's Form/Space Atelier; and the *10th Northwest Biennial* at the Tacoma Art Museum.



To Catch a Thief, View 3, 2012
Silver
Courtesy of the Artist and Sienna Gallery

Anya Kivarkis, Eugene

Anya Kivarkis has established herself as a leading voice of conceptually-rooted metals and jewelry. As she explains her current practice, "Recently, I have sourced historical and contemporary photographs and film and consider how screen-based representations can become surrogates of lived experience. In my work, I am interested in what gets lost in translation from an object represented in an image, to a translation of the image back into an object or space...." Kivarkis has exhibited internationally, including

Handwerkskammer fur Munchen and Oberbayern, Galerie Handwerk in Munich, Germany; Villa Terrace Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.; Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon; Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland; Solidor Art Space, Cagnes sur Mer, France; and the Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, Wash. Kivarkis earned her MFA in Metals from SUNY New Paltz in 2004

and is an associate professor at the University of Oregon. She is represented by Sienna Gallery, Lenox, Mass., and Galerie Rob Koudijs, Amsterdam.



Fatalism and the American Dream, 2011
Porcelain

Ryan LaBar, Enterprise

For Ryan LaBar, the transformational process his ceramic works make in the kiln is paramount to his artistic intentions: “The structural rods, bands, rings and cogs change from being a physical structure of support to a visual illusion of structure... Each component's rigid and singular identity has changed, warped and bent to accommodate the integration of the neighboring elements.” LaBar received an MFA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. He

is an artist representative at LH Projects in Joseph, Ore. His work has recently been exhibited at Houston Center for Contemporary Art, Houston, Texas; Galeria Szklka I Ceramiki, Wroclaw, Poland; Archer Gallery, Washington State University, Vancouver, Wash.; and Da Wang Culture Highland, Shenzhen, China. In 2012, he received a Career Opportunity Grant from the Oregon Arts Commission.



Somewhere Along the Black Sea in the Distant North-East..., 2013
Gouache and graphite on tea-stained paper, wool sweater. Courtesy of the Artist and Ambach and Rice Gallery

Ellen Lesperance, Portland

Says Ellen Lesperance: “My sculptures, paintings and textiles conflate the political with the poetic to merge ideology and individualism.” Her gouache paintings of intricate knitting patterns are sourced through archival photographs and video of feminist activists and Direct Action campaigns. Lesperance’s paintings and sculptures seek to give visibility to these women. Recent and upcoming exhibitions of her work include *Portland2014* at Disjecta in Portland; the New York’s Brooklyn Museum; The Museum of Contemporary Craft in Portland; solo exhibitions at NADA Art Fair in Miami; Frieze Art Fair, New York; and the Seattle Art Museum.. Lesperance received an MFA from Rutgers at The State University of

New Jersey. She is represented by Ambach and Rice Gallery in Los Angeles. Lesperance received a 2012 Hallie Ford Fellowship from The Ford Family Foundation and a 2010 Betty Bowen Award from the Seattle Art Museum.



Presidential Panic Attack, 2012
Acrylic on canvas

Ralph Pugay, Portland

With titles such as *Crochet n' Control*, *Cattle Rave* and *Presidential Panic Attack*, Ralph Pugay's paintings are bitingly humorous. Says the artist, "I paint absurd situational narratives, constructed through the melding of incongruous symbols and ideas, where the mundane and fantastic converge." His recent and upcoming exhibitions include *Portland2014* at Disjecta in Portland; FAB Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.; Center on Contemporary Art, 2012 COCA Annual, in Seattle; and Ditch Projects

in Springfield, Ore. Pugay received an MFA in Contemporary Art Practice from Portland State University. He was awarded a 2012 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. Pugay is represented by Upfor, Portland.



Amelia II, 2013
Graphite and charcoal on paper
Courtesy of the Artist and Laura Russo Gallery

Samantha Wall, Portland

Samantha Wall's large-scale drawings in graphite, charcoal or ink capture what she describes as "an in-between moment arrested by chance that captures the figure between expression and release." Wall's subjects are multi-racial, as is she, and through their portrayal she seeks to dissolve perceived racial boundaries. Wall earned an MFA in Visual Studies from Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland and has exhibited recently at LxWxH Gallery in

Seattle; CUE Art Foundation in New York and Portland Center Stage, The Art Gym, Marylhurst University and Ampersand Gallery in Portland. In 2013, she received a Joan Mitchell Center Residency in New Orleans, La., which was further supported by a Career Opportunity Grant from the Oregon Arts Commission and The Ford Family Foundation. She is represented by Laura Russo Gallery in Portland.



Under Hebron, 2011
Archival pigment print

Terri Warpinski, Eugene

Terri Warpinski is a professor of art at University of Oregon. Her ongoing project, “Surface Tension,” examines landscapes that have been “repurposed to articulate division - familiar and foreign, contemporary and historic,” explains Warpinski. “From 1995-1999, I regularly crossed the US-Mexico border following the path of missionary Padre Kino. During 2000-2001 I received a Fulbright Fellowship to Israel at a time that coincided with the 2nd Intifada.” Her current and upcoming exhibitions include the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Lincoln Center, Fort Collins, Colo.; Jordan Schnitzer

Museum of Art, University of Oregon; Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; and Orange Coast College Galleries, Costa Mesa, Calif. She earned a MFA from the University of Iowa. Helen A. Harrison of *The New York Times* has written of Warpinski: “She is especially attuned to the often subtle evidence of human impact on nature. . . . (Her work) invite(s) speculation about the secrets that may be revealed by close scrutiny and creative speculation.”

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 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 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.