

## Cleveland Arts Prize Announces 2011 Winners

Thursday, April 28, 2011: Executive Director Marcie Bergman and the Board of the Cleveland Arts Prize today announced the following winners in the award categories for 2011:

### Special Honoree

**John Paul Miller**, now 93, received the first Cleveland Arts Prize ever awarded for the visual arts in 1961. Although he had set out to be a painter, he ended up achieving an international reputation in a different art form: gold jewelry. In fact, in the same year he won the Arts Prize, some of his early jewelry work was featured in an international exhibition at London's Goldsmiths Hall. Northeast Ohioans had known and admired Miller's work since 1949, the year of his first appearance in the Cleveland Museum of Art's annual May Show, which he won several times in the course of the next 25 years. As a young teacher at the Cleveland Institute of Art in the late 1940s, Miller rediscovered the secret process of attaching tiny beads of gold to a gold surface without the use of solder, a technical feat that had been perfected by the ancient Romans and lost with the fall of the Roman Empire. For the 40th anniversary of the Cleveland Arts Prize, he was asked to create a gold seal ring to be given to recipients of the newly created Robert P. Bergman Prize.

### Mid-Career Awards

**Literature: Paula McLain** recently set the world of fiction afire with her new book, *The Paris Wife*, which has received national critical acclaim for her detailed depiction of the marriage of Ernest and Hadley Hemingway and their life in Paris with the Lost Generation. Her historic fiction is exquisitely accurate and detailed, placing the reader squarely in the thick of the period and insightfully revealing each of the colorful and complex characters and their relationships. One reviewer said that McLain's novel even compelled her to buy and read books about Hemingway and other Jazz Age writers such as Dorothy Parker. While her new book definitely marks an important progression in her career, McLain long ago established herself as a writer to watch as the author of her first novel, *A Ticket to Ride*, two collections of poetry, as well as a memoir, *Like Family*. She received an MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan and has been a resident of Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony.

**Design: Robert Maschke, AIA**, founded Robert Maschke Architects Inc. in 1997. Since then, he and his firm have designed a diverse range of award-winning arts, commercial and residential projects all over the world. Throughout that time, Maschke has cultivated and continued to refine a design sensibility that is simultaneously timeless in atmosphere, highly articulated in finish, and meticulous in detail. This year, he received a National Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, and last year, the AIA recognized him with Ohio Merit and Cleveland Merit awards for his work. He has received many AIA honors and awards during his career, which includes previously serving as a partner with Richard Fleischman Architects, Inc., and as Chief of Design and Project Management for the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, where he was responsible for the design and construction of more than \$500 million in public housing and institutional projects.

**Music & Dance:** **Yolanda Kondonassis** is celebrated as one of the world's premiere solo harpists and composers and is widely regarded as today's most recorded classical harpist. Hailed as "an extraordinary virtuosa" and "sheer luminescence at the harp," she has performed around the globe as a concerto soloist and in recital, bringing her unique brand of musicianship and warm artistry to an ever-increasing audience. Since making her debut at age 18 with the New York Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta, Kondonassis has appeared as soloist with numerous major orchestras in the United States and abroad such as The Cleveland Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Dallas Symphony, New York Chamber Symphony, Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica de Puerto Rico, Phoenix Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, New World Symphony, and Florida Orchestra. Other solo appearances include engagements at Lincoln Center, the 92nd Street Y and Taiwan's National Concert Hall. She recently released her fifteenth album on the Telarc label.

**Visual Arts:** **Barry Underwood** has exhibited his distinctive work that combines a photographic and theatrical sensibility for the past two decades in solo and group exhibitions at galleries. Moreover, his work continues to be popular with private collectors. Of his art, Underwood says: "Intermingling issues of contemporary painting, cinema and land art, I create surreal photographs that are a cross-pollination between static and performing art. I explore the use of light and installation to abstract form and context within traditional landscape imagery." To support his dual sensibility, he obtained BAs in Theatre and Photography from Indiana University Northwest, as well as an MFA in Photography from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Last year, Underwood served as Artist in Residence at the Center for Land Use Interpretation: Wendover Residency Program in Wendover, Utah. In 2009, he was Artist in Residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, California, and was a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Grant nominee for The Tiffany & Co. Foundation in New York.

### **Special Prize Recipients**

**Bergman Prize:** As Executive Director, **Marcie Goodman** has led the Cleveland International Film Festival to international prominence, driving it to become one of the most elite festivals that documentarians and narrative filmmakers from all over the world want to get their films into and film lovers want to attend. Each year, the festival screens roughly 150 feature films and 160 short films from approximately 60 countries. For the past several years, despite a difficult economic environment, the festival has continued to set new records for individual day and total attendance. In 2011, the 35<sup>th</sup> annual event broke last year's record of 72,000 for total attendance by more than 6,000 people. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recently named the CIFF a qualifying festival for the Oscar shorts nominees. Under Goodman's direction, CIFF's staff has developed innovative ways to engage attendees, including the FilmForums, FilmSlam, Filmmaker Panels, and the Lights! Camera! Action Steps! initiative encouraging the community to get involved with a cause. In 2008, Goodman received an Ohio Governor's Award for the Arts. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1977.

## **Martha Joseph Prize Winners**

**A. Grace Lee Mims** is most widely known for her 35 years as hostess and producer of “The Black Arts” radio broadcast on WCLV. She developed and initiated the program, which features African-American composers and performers, classical spirituals, and involvement in the arts. She also hosted the daily “Artslog” radio show devoted to all facets of the arts for a number of years. The multitalented Mims is a gifted soprano, musician, librarian, and educator. While serving as the Head Librarian at Glenville High School in Cleveland, she created one of the most extensive collections of school-based materials on African-American history and culture in Ohio, including all genres of music, especially the Negro Spiritual. Mims was accepted into the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus under Robert Shaw, who encouraged her to study vocal music, which she began at the Cleveland Music School Settlement. She remains a member of CIM’s Voice faculty. Critics described her album “Spirituals” as “superb; powerful; and beautifully performed.” Nationally, she is considered an authority on Black music.

**Natalie Epstein** is a long-time supporter of the BA and MFA theater programs at Case Western Reserve University. She has also demonstrated her passion for the performing arts by serving on the Board of Directors for both The Cleveland Play House and The Great Lakes Theatre Festival. She is credited with having played a profound role in shaping the arts at CWRU. In 1991, for example, she founded The Friends of Eldred Theater, which continues to thrive under her leadership. It’s programmatic support and outreach activities have achieved remarkable success, and today serve as a model for generating support for other parts of the curriculum. From 1996 to 2004, Epstein served on CWRU’s Visiting Committee and the Special Task Force on the Need for a Performing Arts Center. She has also provided critical support to the College of Arts and Sciences as a capital campaign co-chair. In 2009, Epstein received The Gries Family Foundation Award for Community Leadership and was voted into the Cleveland Heights High School Hall of Fame. In 2008, she won the Cleveland State University President’s Medal.

**Tom Hinson** recently retired after more than three decades as an associate curator of modern and contemporary art at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The native Texan garnered attention for his consistent and impressive selections for the museum. Those who are familiar with his numerous contributions know that his signature achievement is the development of CMA’s small but significant collection of photography. He launched the collection with little or nothing of note and often struggled to convince trustees to purchase the work he chose for his area. Thanks to Hinson’s commitment and passion for contemporary photography, the museum’s collection continued to gain acclaim during his tenure. Griffith Mann, the museum’s chief curator, said: “His impact has been huge.” While completing an internship at the Toledo Museum of Art, Hinson decided to obtain a master’s degree in art history at Case Western Reserve University. He then landed a job at the Cleveland Museum of Art starting in 1973, under the directorship of the legendary Sherman Lee. He ran the museum’s May Show until it was discontinued in the early 1990s.

Since 1994, **Marsha Dobrzynski** has served as Executive Director of Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio, an integrated program with more than 30 arts, cultural, philanthropic and educational institutions. During that time, she has continually demonstrated her unsurpassed dedication to ensure that children throughout Northeast Ohio have equal access to the arts and the consequent benefits that arts experiences can bring to their personal growth and education. When she assumed leadership, the organization was on the verge of bankruptcy. Through her

tireless commitment to establishing a financially sound and growing organization with the capacity to serve many children, however, she has turned things around. Today, Young Audiences operates on a budget of nearly \$2 million and serves more than 242,000 children a year. Her goal remains introducing an ever-increasing number of children from the region to the joy and excitement of the arts. Under her leadership, Young Audiences became the operating agency for Initiative for Cultural Arts In Education, now known as Art is Education. She is also responsible for introducing ArtWorks, an arts-based, job readiness program for high-school students.

### **Emerging Artist Award**

**Michael Oatman** holds the distinct honor of being only the second Playwright in Residence in Karamu House's nearly 100-year history. The other was Langston Hughes. In just a few years' time, the Cleveland-born playwright, actor, director, and journalist has made his mark in his hometown and across the nation, including productions and readings at the Stella Adler Conservatory in New York City, the African American Playwright Exchange in Washington D.C., the Shelterbelt Theatre, The ETA Theatre, and The Church. Local audiences have seen his poetic yet provocative work at The Cleveland Play House FusionFest, Cleveland Public Theatre, Karamu House, Cleveland State University, and the Ingenuity Festival. His work, which includes *Eclipse: The War Between Pac and Big*, *My Africa*, *A Solitary Voice*, and *Drowning the Flame*, has been featured in both *The New York Times* and *American Theatre*. Since earning his Masters Degree in Playwriting at Cleveland State University in 2008, Oatman has taught at schools across the region, joined the Playwrights Unit at the Cleveland Play House, and been named one of Cleveland's Most Interesting People 2010 by *Cleveland Magazine*.

### **Lifetime Achievement Awards**

**Brinsley Tyrrell** says he thinks of himself primarily as a sculptor, working with clay, wax, plaster, bronze; wood or stone. At 14, he was handed a block of alabaster in a sculpture class and shown how to use some chisels. He began carving while the teacher sat in the corner and played the cello. Within twenty minutes he knew he wanted to be an artist. He has created many large public commissions, which led to using other materials. Together with blacksmith Steve Jordan, he has completed a number of wrought iron sculptures, fences, and gates, many of which are in the Cleveland area. In 2007, he used the large scale enamel kiln at Kent State University to complete a commission for RTA's 117<sup>th</sup> Street Station. Born in 1941 in Surrey, England, Tyrrell attended the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, The University of London, where he received a major grant from the Middlesex County Council, and earned his Intermediate Degree in Fine Arts in 1961 and a National Diploma in Design with a major in Sculpture and a minor in Terracotta in 1964.

**David Cerone** has had a significant impact on music and music education in Northeast Ohio. He served as president of the Cleveland Institute of Music from 1985 to 2008, and he is a board member of University Circle, Inc. and the Avery Fisher Artist Program. He was Professor of Violin at Oberlin Conservatory from 1962 to 1971 and Chairman of the String Department and Kulas Professor at CIM from 1971 to 1981. Today, he participates as a juror for many prominent

national and international violin competitions and presents master classes around the world. An active chamber musician, he toured extensively with the Canterbury Trio from 1984 to 1989, under Columbia Artist Management. He is an Auxiliary Director of the International Board of the Suzuki Association. His extremely popular recordings of the Suzuki Violin Method Books I through IV have been reissued by Alfred Publishing. He began his violin studies with his father, studied at the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music, and in 1967, made his New York recital debut at Town Hall.

### **Event Information**

The Cleveland Arts Prize will host its 51<sup>st</sup> annual awards event on Tuesday, June 28, 2011, at 6:00 pm. Winners of the 2011 Cleveland Arts Prize awards will be honored at the Gartner Auditorium at the Cleveland Museum of Art. This exciting evening will be hosted by the mellifluous-voiced Dee Perry, arts commentator extraordinaire for WCPN and ideastream. Performances will take place throughout the program, and there will be a video tribute to John Paul Miller, 93, the first Arts Prize winner in 1961. Attendees will mingle with the winners at the reception, where they can also greet Arts Prize winners from previous years.

Ticket prices range from the \$200 Patron Ticket (\$160 tax deductible) and the \$100 Donor Ticket (\$60 tax deductible), which include the reception at 6:00 pm with food and drink and the dessert reception following the event to the \$50 General Ticket (\$40 tax deductible), which includes the dessert reception following the event. Invitations will be mailed in May. Tickets will be available on our website, [www.clevelandartsprize.org](http://www.clevelandartsprize.org), by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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