

Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council Funded Individual Artist Projects

Individual Artist Grants are open to individuals residing in Warren and Washington Counties and are administered annually by LARAC. The funding cycle begins each fall. More information on this grant program is available at LARAC's Web Site at www.larac.org or by contacting the Coordinator by phone at 798-1144, ext. 4 or email at anne@larac.org.

Funding provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, with supplemental funding from Rivendell Foundation, administered by LARAC.

2009 (27 applicants, 4 grants awarded)

- Jack DeGaetano (Painting/Drawing) received \$2500 to create a portrait series of the area's dancers (watercolors, pen and ink and colored pencil) to show how dance in our community is inspired by and intertwined with the natural beauties we see every day: mountains, waterfalls, flowers.
- Gerry Holzman (Sculpture/Wood Carving) received \$2500 to carve a wooden carousel cow whose trappings would feature activities generally associated with the Battenkill Valley. Much of the carving work would be done in public during 2009 as part of the Cambridge Farmers' Market. The completed Holstein cow would be donated to Cambridge Valley Community Development Corporation for use on their Battenkill Valley Carousel.
- Leslie Parke (Painting/Oil) received \$2500 to create oil paintings with the theme of Look Up/Look Down based on nature in the surrounding regions of Washington County.
- Leslie Peck (Painting/Oil) received \$2500 to paint elegant still life paintings of produce and products in the spirit of "buy local" juxtaposed against the surrounding Washington County landscapes.

2008 (16 applicants, 4 grants awarded)

- Erin Reid Coker (photography) received \$2500 to photograph the Down Syndrome community of Warren and Washington counties. For each of the 8-10 Down Syndrome participants, he will include one 19" x 30" black and white studio portrait and 5-8 smaller, black and white photographs of community events seen through their eyes. This artwork will be part of a free and open exhibit in Warren or Washington County.
- Brenda McMahon (ceramics) received \$2500 to create 25 new hand-thrown ceramic vessels and carved tiles that reflect the ancient techniques of Southeast Asia. She will explore form, firings and surface treatments, including designing a primitive Thai kiln. Brenda McMahon will present an informational slide show to the public at her gallery in April and she will present her complete body of new work at Riverfront Gallery in Schuylerville in September.
- Sarah Mones (photography) received \$2500 to merge history and culture through large-scale black and white portraits of the elders in our community. Through interviews, I will collect important memories and document them via photography. In the fall of 2008, I will host a reception at the Ridge St. Coffee Shop for the public.
- Catherine Reid (music composition) received \$2500 to create A Collection in Concert, a series of compositions, which will interpret, in musical form, the sounds of masterworks from the permanent collection of the Hyde Collection. The compositions will then be

featured in two concerts in the museum's auditorium that will be held in conjunction with the exhibition A Glens Falls Legacy: The Pruyn Family on view beginning June 8.

2007 (17 applicants, 4 grants awarded)

- Donald Cook (visual arts) received \$2000 to create a body of new work, specifically landscapes, executed in pastel and charcoal, and reflecting the rich interaction between the forms of nature and the presence of the human community in rural/agricultural Washington Co. These will be exhibited in locations throughout Washington Co., accompanied by a brief talk and questions and answer period.
- Richard Jones (sculpture) received \$2000 to create an interpretive bird sculpture entitled "Great White Egret, Adirondack Bird". This sculpture will be a negative space wood sculpture showing all the beauty of this bird in breeding plumage. Using the sculpture as a focus, he will then make presentations at local schools to present and discuss with teenagers the use of negative space design in artwork.
- Lara Sorensen (visual arts) received \$2000 to create a series of a least six paintings, acrylic on masonite panels, inspired by and portraying the landscape and the inhabitants of the northern Hudson River valley with a solo exhibit in the Widlund Gallery in North Creek.
- Nancy White (poetry) received \$2000 to write a group of poems inspired by interviews with local residents who have an intimate relationship with the land. For each interview she will walk and if possible work with local residents whose connection to the land is key in the work they do or to the person he or she has become. The project will culminate in two readings open to the public.

2006 (12 applicants, 4 grants awarded)

- Pam Barker (collage) received \$1500 to create twelve mixed-media collages and six figurative ceramic pieces that will be based on the issue of Domestic Violence. Each collage will contain a visual message that illustrates an emotional stage from the victim's point of view, and the ceramic sculptures will depict the cycles of abuse and the devastating effects of emotional pain.
- Gerry Holzman (woodworking) received \$1500 to create a woodcarving based on the large photomural in the main exhibit area of the Slate Valley Museum in Granville. The deep relief carving will focus on a group of five workers, a grouping selected from the original photograph. Upon completion, the carving will be gifted to the Slate Valley Museum
- Clifford Oliver (photograph) received \$1500 to photograph a project showing the homes and personalities of Greenwich's Underground Railroad. Using members of the community, he will stage photographs of the encounters of these freedom fighters and freedom seekers.
- Russell Serrienne (sculpture) received \$1500 to construct "The Zoetrope Project", an outdoor optical-kinetic sculpture installation exhibition at Adirondack Community college in 2006. The outdoor interactive sculpture will be designed for active participation by the viewers.

2005 (14 applicants, 5 grants awarded)

- Diane Burk (textiles) received \$1500 to construct a 4' x 6' hooked rug, depicting Bolton Landing's historical sites and buildings, Lake George and the surrounding mountains. Demonstrations as the work is being created will be held at various locals to introduce the process and the sites depicted. Upon completion, the rug will travel to the various

sites depicted on the rug and later will be permanently gifted to the Bolton Chamber of Commerce for public display.

- Gisella Montanez-Case (vocal music) received \$1500 to research and create a performance of Living History in Music as Emma Thursby, consummate concert artist and oratorio signer of the early Victorian Era. Dressed in Victorian costume and performed with a scripted monologue, a collection of songs, arias, and hymns will be initially presented to benefit The Chapman Museum.
- Ken Denberg (literature) received \$1500 to write six creative non-fiction essays about agricultural, land-use and water-use issues in southern Washington County to be published in a Washington County newspaper
- Kate Hartley (visual arts) received \$1500 to paint a series of 10-12 watercolors called "Adirondack Conversations" which will combine still life compositions with dramatically-lit landscape views of the Adirondack region recommended by area residents
- Esmond Lyons (visual arts) received \$1500 to paint a wall mural of the Feeder Canal as it could have appeared during its early use, including human and animal figures within the landscape

2004 (10 applicants, 4 grants awarded)

- Barbara Tumarkin Dunham (literature) received \$1500 to research and write "Natan, Boy Peddler" in the Adirondacks, a book for children, to be based on the real-life adventures of early 20th century peddlers in the Adirondacks
- Pearl Rucker (sculpture) received \$1500 to create and install fabric sculptures within Crandall Park and to hold an informative lecture/slide show on the process
- Janine Thomas (visual arts & sculpture) received \$1500 to create a series of paintings and sculptures entitled, "Young Lives and Livestock" that will capture Washington Co. children and the animals they care for and show at the Washington Co. County Fair
- Ken Wheeler (visual arts) received \$1500 to create a visual essay in a series of watercolor painting depicting area diners, culminating with an exhibit titled, "The Neighborhood Diner: A Staple of America"

2003 (17 applicants, 3 grants awarded)

- Persis Granger (literature) received \$2500 to write a young adult novel about community life in the Town of Thurman around 1890 and to then share this with young people through the local historical society, youth commission, and area schools
- Katy Watson (dance) received \$2500 to choreograph and videotape a dance at the covered footbridge in Varack Park, Cambridge culminating with a presentation at the Cambridge Historical Society and Greenwich Central School
- Gretchen McHugh (photography) received \$1000 to take black and white photographs of industrial and bucolic scenes along the Hudson River culminating with an exhibit of the new photographs with archival photos, drawings, maps, and prints

2002 (14 applicants, 4 grants awarded)

- Jonathan Newell (music composition and performance) received \$2500 to compose and orchestrate a musical piece framed within two movements for piano and string orchestra intended for ballet. The music will premiere at Adirondack Community College using a chamber orchestra of ACC music faculty and members of the ACC string orchestra. The

completed piece, with choreography, will be performed by Adirondack Repertory Dance Theatre at a later date.

- Marianne Rahn-Erickson (audio) received \$1000 to create a Sound Mosaic of three short-form pieces. This audio CD will feature the stories of several individuals who hold “unusual jobs”. Their stories will be based on interviews and on-location recording sessions and will use speech and ambient sounds related to the speaker’s life, environment and work. The resulting work will be reminiscent of old time radio and will culminate with a public presentation.
- Cheryl Mirer (printmaking) received \$2500 to create a series of wood relief prints, some in black and white and others as color reduction prints. This body of work will present portraits of female figures of the Adirondacks, ranging from early American settlers to contemporary women. Along with the artwork will be a synopsis of these women’s lives and why the artist chose them. This exhibit will then travel to many of the regional libraries.
- Donald Polunci (photography) received \$1000 to create a photographic documentation of the City of Glens Falls at the turn-of-the century and to put together a photographic essay of the city for all to see now and in the years to come. The selected photographs will then be presented as a panorama of the downtown area as it exists during the current turn-of-the-century. The final body of work will be premiered through a local exhibit open to the public.

2001 (8 applicants, 1 grant awarded)

- Michael Dabroski (music composition and performance) received \$2000 to create an original six-movement chamber music suite for piano trio (violin, cello, and piano). The inspiration for the 60-minute suite reflected the life in and around Johnsbury and the Adirondacks. The project culminated in a public performance that benefited the Town of Johnsbury Library.

2000 (15 applicants, 3 grants awarded)

- Brian Chevalier (music composition and performance) received \$2500 to compose a collection of music and lyrics that tell the folklore and history of the region and will culminate in a public performance
- Carolyn Nygren Curran (pottery) received \$2500 to create a totemic landscape of 100 or more fired and glazed clay forms that were united as one composition. Use of various local clays and raw materials as glaze enhancers were used in the process. Upon completion, a public exhibition of the work was held.
- Daniel Way (photography) received \$2500 to create an exhibit that provided an updated version of the 1944 Look Magazine photo essay entitled “Hometown USA”. The photographs showcased local citizens in their normal environments and public landmarks such as local parks and streets. Accompanying each photograph was a one-page vignette to bring out the full meaning of each image.

1999 (22 applicants, 4 grants awarded)

- Betsy Brandt (mixed media) received \$2500 to create a sculpture “that pays homage to the phenomenon of learning”. From pencils collected, she built an undulating sculpture in a log cabin style that was displayed at ACC. To compliment the sculpture, she included written documentation of individual educational experiences.
- Francalise Dawkins (textiles) received \$2500 to create a fabric collage from pieces of fabric collected from members of the community. In addition, individuals participated by

signing their donations and/or writing the story of their pieces in a journal. The completed quilt has been exhibited at various sites throughout the county.

- Betsy Krebs (visual arts) received \$2500 to create images derived from recipes that were used in the Adirondacks during the 1800s. The project focused on factors important to the social, cultural, and historic features of the region. This culminated with an exhibit of the created visual recipes.
- Catherine Reid (music composition and performance) received \$2500 to present an intergenerational project. Using student interviews of senior citizens, music and songs, she composed for a musical revue. This culminated with a presentation of slides of the interviewees, discussion of the process, and a student performance of the musical compositions.