

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

News Release

**SIXTEEN ARTISTS RECEIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
FROM THE DELAWARE DIVISION OF THE ARTS**

**INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANTS**

(Wilmington, DE—February 8, 2010) The Delaware Division of the Arts announced the Fiscal Year 2010 winners of the Individual Artist Fellowship (IAF) grants. Sixteen individual Delaware artists are being recognized for the high quality of their artwork in the visual arts, literature, music and folk arts. Artists were selected from towns throughout the state including Ardencroft, Bear, Middletown, Newark, Dover, Rehoboth Beach, and Wilmington. Their work ranged from folk music and fiction writing to music composition and painting.

The work of 87 applicants was judged by arts professionals from around the country. Through the IAF grants, the artists' achievements are affirmed, helping provide the recognition and exposure that artists need to successfully promote their work. The artists receive a financial award—\$3,000 for the Emerging category, \$6,000 for the Established category, and \$10,000 for the Masters level. This allows the artists to pursue advanced training, purchase equipment and materials, or fulfill other needs that allow them to advance their career. The public will have an opportunity to see the varied artwork by these artists as they are required to have a public exhibit or performance showcasing their work in the upcoming year.

This year the arts discipline category for the Masters Fellowship was Literature. The discipline category rotates every three years and only artists that have previously won in the Established category are eligible to apply. In addition to the high artistic quality of their work, artists must demonstrate their involvement and commitment to the arts in Delaware. There was no award given at the Masters level this year.

Listed below are the Delaware Division of the Arts 2010 Individual Artist Fellows. Contact information for the artists may be obtained by calling Kristin Pleasanton, the Division's Art and Artist Services Coordinator, at (302) 577-8284 in Wilmington or (302) 736-7436 in Dover.

## **2010 INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWS**

### **Established Professional (\$6,000 award)**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Community</u></b>	<b><u>Artistic Discipline</u></b>
Larry Anderson	Wilmington	Visual Arts: Painting
Christopher Childers	Middletown	Literature: Poetry
Viet Dinh	Wilmington	Literature: Fiction
Maribeth Fischer	Rehoboth Beach	Literature: Fiction
Michael Kalmbach	Wilmington	Visual Arts: Painting
Ashley J. Pigford	Newark	Visual Arts: Sculpture
Heather Siple	Wilmington	Visual Arts: Photography
Nina Spencer	Dover	Folk Art: Visual Arts
Jerry "Crabmeat" Thompson	Middletown	Folk Art: Music

### **Emerging Professional (\$3,000 award)**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Community</u></b>	<b><u>Artistic Discipline</u></b>
Hunter Clarke	Ardencroft	Visual Arts: Painting
Cybele Clark-Mendes	Newark	Visual Arts: Photography
Tery Aine Griffin	Wilmington	Literature: Fiction
Allison M. Haug	Wilmington	Visual Arts: Crafts
Felise Luchansky	Wilmington	Visual Arts: Work on Paper
Michael S. Smith	Bear	Music: Composition
L.J. Sysko	Wilmington	Literature: Poetry

### **Honorable Mentions**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Community</u></b>	<b><u>Artistic Discipline</u></b>
Elizabeth Dolan	Rehoboth Beach	Literature: Creative Non-Fiction
John A. Palmer	Newark	Media Arts: Video
Kenneth W. Skrzysz	Rehoboth Beach	Dance: Choreography
Carla Varisco-Williams	Wilmington	Visual Arts: Photography
Lara Zeises	Wilmington	Literature: Fiction

The next deadline for Individual Artist Fellowships applications is August 2, 2010.

The Delaware Division of the Arts is an agency of the State of Delaware. Together with its advisory body, the Delaware State Arts Council, the Division administers grants and programs that support artists and arts organizations, educate the public, increase awareness of the arts, and integrate the arts into all facets of Delaware life. Funding for Division programs is provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware State Legislature, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.