



7 May 2009 **GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS**

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2009 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts

**Eight artists and arts supporters will receive  
New Mexico's highest artistic honor**

**SANTA FE** – Governor Bill Richardson and First Lady Barbara Richardson, along with the New Mexico Arts Commission, have announced the eight artists and arts supporters who will be recipients of the 2009 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

"Arts and cultural activities define New Mexico as they do few other places in the world," said Governor Richardson. "I am very proud of these exceptional artists and contributors, and I applaud the important work they do in our communities each and every day."

First Lady Barbara Richardson said, "The Governor and I urge all New Mexicans to join us in applauding this year's Arts Awards winners. Their works contribute significantly to the cultural life of our state and remind us why this is the Land of Enchantment."

The 2009 Governor's Arts Awards recipients are: **Stephen Hansen** of Las Cruces for Sculpture; **Tom Joyce** of Santa Fe for Blacksmithing and Sculpture; **Joseph Lonewolf** of Santa Clara Pueblo for Pottery; **Carmella Padilla** of Santa Fe for Literary Arts; **Edward Vega** of Albuquerque for Sculpture; **Elaine Wiggins Howe** of Roswell – Major Contributor to the Arts; **William A. Miller** of Santa Fe – Major Contributor to the

Arts; and *Pasatiempo*, the Santa Fe New Mexican's Arts and Entertainment Magazine – Major Contributor to the Arts.

The 2009 Governor's Arts Awards ceremonies will be held on Friday evening, September 25, 5:15 to 7:00 pm at the St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe. The ceremony is preceded by an afternoon reception and exhibition opening, 3:30 – 4:30 pm, in the Governor's Gallery, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, State Capitol. Both the awards ceremony and gallery reception are free and open to the public.

The Governor's Arts Awards were established in 1974 by Governor Bruce King and First Lady Alice King to celebrate the enormous roles – both economic and cultural – that artists, craftspeople and arts supporters play in the life of New Mexico. During its 36-year existence, a diverse and prestigious list of painters, weavers, sculptors, dancers, musicians, storytellers, poets, actors, playwrights and potters have been honored. Past awardees include Georgia O'Keeffe, Laura Gilpin, Max Evans, Wilson Hurley, Joy Harjo, Bill Mauldin, John Nichols, Pablita Velarde and Cipriano Vigil.

Nominations for the awards are invited each year from arts groups and interested New Mexicans. All nominations are reviewed by a committee of the New Mexico Arts Commission, which sends its recommendations to the full Commission and to the Governor. The 2009 Awards Selection Committee consisted of Charmay Allred of Santa Fe as Chairperson, Bob Cooper of Albuquerque, Glenn Cutter of Mesilla, John Rohovec of Silver City, Janice Spence of Hobbs, who chairs the New Mexico Arts Commission, and Chuck Zimmer, manager of the state public art program for New Mexico Arts. Loie Fecteau, executive director of New Mexico Arts, and program manager Virginia Castellano served on the committee in a nonvoting capacity.

***The following are brief profiles of the 2009 Governor's Arts Awardees:***

Most artists would not want their work described as a “laugh-out-loud experience.” But for Las Cruces papier-maché sculptor **Stephen Hansen**, those who laugh hard at his clever and humorous characters are paying him high respect.

“As an artist, I'm not an explorer of the human condition so much as a hapless tourist,” says Hansen, who grew up in Seattle, lived most of his life in Kalamazoo and moved with his family to the Las Cruces area in 1989.

Hansen's meticulous papier-maché – please note that these are not your typical childhood wet newspaper creations – cartoon-like creatures are known all over the world and spice up many a museum and corporate collection from the Capitol Art Foundation Collection in Santa Fe to the Jyukano Research Institute in Tokyo, from United States Embassies in Italy and Venezuela to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Inspirations for Hansen's work often emerge from a play on words, a common phrase or a bit of conversation. His sculpture "High Maintenance" is typical of his humor and features a woman surrounded by a gang of workers atop a ladder and scaffolding busily painting her nails, applying her makeup and combing her hair.

Playwright Mark Medoff, who received a Governor's Arts Award in 1980, says about Hansen, "He is one of the unique artists working not only in New Mexico but in the world today. I marvel at his mind, at where his ironic punning concepts come from, and I marvel at the execution."

Master blacksmith **Tom Joyce** has risen to the top of his field forging both art and life. He is a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship winner who is globally recognized as an artist and locally recognized as an unselfish mentor and community unifier.

On the art side of his accomplishments, Joyce is widely credited with revitalizing the tradition of blacksmithing in New Mexico and beyond. He has forged iron for public art projects in New Mexico and around the world, including such commissions as the baptismal font at Santa Maria del la Paz Church in Santa Fe as well as installations at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC; the Boston Museum of Fine Art; the Museum of Applied Arts in Moscow, Russia; and the Musee Des Arts Decoratifs in Paris, France.

An example of his innovative, thoughtful approach to commissioned projects sits at the sculpture-garden entrance to the Albuquerque Museum of Art. For the project Joyce led a clean-up effort along the banks of the nearby Rio Grande, asking young people to gather pieces of discarded metal – from auto parts to mattress springs – that he then melted down and forged into gates that literally hold grids of history.

The other side of Joyce's work – the part where he opens his studio to young artists and patiently teaches them about iron and art – has been equally impressive. For

more than 30 years he has shared his design concepts and working knowledge of blacksmithing with students through high school and college level internships, formal apprenticeships and free classes for New Mexico youth. He has presented lectures on his art form in Ireland, England, Belgium, Italy, Finland, South Africa, Estonia and a steady stream of venues in the United States and Canada.

A native of Oklahoma, Joyce moved to El Rito, New Mexico when he was 12. He has been a resident of New Mexico for 38 years and has practiced his craft for 35 years.

“Tom Joyce merits this award because he inspires the creative spirit in others, and holds the torch for excellence in the pursuit of his passion,” said his nominator, Marcia McCoy of Santa Fe.

Santa Clara Pueblo potter **Joseph Lonewolf** learned pottery from his mother, Agapita Silva, and his father, Camilio Sunflower Tafoya, but he is widely credited with advancing the art of modern pottery making beyond the traditional boundaries.

In the 1970s, he introduced intricate etched designs onto the stone polished surfaces of his pottery, and from those beginnings Lonewolf’s creations have been called “pottery jewels” because of their delicacy, flawless detail and fragile, cameo-like appearance.

“Joseph was the first Pueblo native to try to take his traditional art form to a larger audience that would appreciate his work as art and not labeled as a ‘craft’,” said Robert V. Gallegos in his letter of support for Lonewolf.

Among Lonewolf’s innovations in pottery making are highly detailed sgraffito, new and unique natural clay color slip and bas relief. His nominators say that Lonewolf’s bas reliefs are “so fine as to be almost photo realistic.”

“Through his talent, Joseph Lonewolf has been instrumental in perpetuating the art and history of his culture,” said Wayne Bobrick, owner of Wright’s Indian Art in Albuquerque. “The international success and admiration for his pottery has brought the attention of the world to New Mexico and its special status in the art world.”

Santa Fe native **Carmella Padilla** is an award-winning author and editor who has written extensively about the Hispano art, culture and history of New Mexico.

Padilla's popular books produced by the Museum of New Mexico Press include *The Chile Chronicles: Tales of a New Mexico Harvest*, which received the 1999 Historical Society of New Mexico's Ralph Emerson Twitchell Award for a significant contribution to the field of history, and *Low 'n Slow: Lowriding in New Mexico*, a journey through northern New Mexico's cherished car culture on which she collaborated with photographer Jack Parsons, a past recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

In addition to authoring books, Padilla has curated museum exhibits such as the 2002 *Eliseo Rodriguez: El Sexto Pintor* exhibition at the New Mexico Museum of Art; worked in public relations and volunteered for numerous non-profit organizations such as the Spanish Colonial Art Society and the Santa Fe Railyard Park and Plaza project. She also worked closely with the group that established the successful, annual Santa Fe International Folk Art Market.

Padilla, who holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of New Mexico, has earned numerous featuring writing awards from the New Mexico Press Association and in 1999 received the City of Santa Fe Mayor's Recognition Award for Excellence in Literary Arts.

"Carmella Padilla's passion for the culture of New Mexico in all its forms shines through in her eloquent and honest writing, giving readers a clearer understanding of the rich history of the arts and traditions of New Mexico," said nominators George Paloheimo and John Berkenfield of El Rancho de las Golondrinas living history museum near Santa Fe.

Padilla's husband, Luis Tapia, received the Governor's Award for visual arts in 1996.

**Edward Vega** of Albuquerque is a prolific and versatile artist who makes monumental sculptures one day and then designs sets for major motion pictures the next.

Born and raised in Deming, New Mexico, Vega earned fine arts degrees from both New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico before he began teaching sculpture and printmaking at NMSU in the early 1970's. He also served as head of the art department at the now-defunct University of Albuquerque from 1976 until the school's closing in 1986.

For his large scale sculptures, Vega works with weathering – corten – steel, which takes on a rust-like appearance if exposed to weather for several years. One such installation, “Dawn Light,” sits in a small Albuquerque park on the corner of San Mateo and Indian School, NE.

Vega's pieces have been shown in exhibitions and public art installations throughout the country, including the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History and the New Mexico Museum of Art on the plaza in Santa Fe. In 1998 Vega was appointed by Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin to serve on the “Dollar Coin Advisory Committee” which established the theme and look of the eventual Sacagawea dollar. He was the only member of the committee from west of the Mississippi River.

Vega's involvement in the film industry began in 1985 when a movie titled “Animal Behavior” was shot in Albuquerque. The production team needed design work and a scenic backdrop painted, and Vega was recommended for the job. His talent was well received, and he went on to work on 20 movies between 1985 and 1995, including “Buffalo Girls” and “Spy Kids I”. In 1996 Vega was working on “Selena” in San Antonio, Texas, when he was promoted to art director, a role that he has played for 11 films, the most recent being “Not Forgotten” in 2007.

**Elaine Wiggins Howe** has long been known as a relentless arts advocate for young people in her native community of Roswell.

Primarily an arts educator, Howe retired from her position as Elementary Arts Coordinator for the Roswell Independent School District in 2007 after a varied 25-year career teaching children with special needs, gifted kids and high school students enrolled in studio art.

In 2008, Howe worked with Roswell Museum and Art Center director Laurie Rufe to secure funding from community organizations and private donors to design a

program called *Second Saturday: Eyes on Art*. The visual arts series links gallery experiences with hands-on activities for students such as ceramics, painting, animation and photography. *Eyes on Art* sessions are held in Roswell Museum classrooms and are free to the students. All sessions are taught by professional community artists many of whom are from the Anderson Museum Artist-in-Residence program.

“It is because of Elaine Howe’s spirit of collaboration and her drive for children’s literacy in the arts that the Roswell Museum has been an ambitious and successful partner with Roswell schools, making a difference in young people’s lives,” said Laurie Rufe. “Through her endeavors, young minds, hearts and souls have been nurtured, empowered and literally saved.”

In 2001 Howe was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award, presented by Eastern New Mexico University. The following year she received the Laureate Award for Teaching Excellence from the Roswell Educational Achievement Foundation. In 2003 Howe co-wrote a proposal for new arts funding through the Fine Arts Education Act to bring arts education to all children in New Mexico.

**William A. Miller** of Santa Fe is a philanthropist, entrepreneur, financial advisor and renowned collector of contemporary and Native American art.

Miller and his wife Alicia moved to Santa Fe from Chagrin Falls, Ohio in 1994 and immediately became active in support of the arts in northern New Mexico. Although the Millers have assisted numerous arts organizations, such as the Santa Fe Art Institute and the Santa Fe Opera, their principal focus has been with SITE Santa Fe. William Miller joined the SITE Board of Trustees in 1997 and has since served as Chairman of the Finance Committee, as well as Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary of the Executive Committee. Miller is currently serving on the Investment and Facilities Committees.

“Bill Miller is a rock for SITE Santa Fe,” said director Laura Steward. “He is a generous donor and a worker, a pragmatist with a low tolerance for financial risk and a high tolerance for risky art, a problem-solver, deal-broker, and keeper of the faith.”

“Especially in SITE’s early years, with his financial acumen and countless hours of his time, Bill laid the foundation for the financial stability that SITE enjoys today. His

belief in SITE's staff inspires and empowers us to work towards excellence. A patron like Bill, who puts his whole heart into an organization, is a rare find," Steward added.

Miller, who holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Ohio Wesleyan University and an MBA from the University of Chicago, has also served on the boards of the Cleveland Health Museum, the Robert O. Anderson School at the University of New Mexico and St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe. He is currently president of Miller Strategic Consulting, LLC in Santa Fe, a consulting practice specializing in entrepreneurial activities through investing as well as the management and development of start-up companies and nonprofit organizations.

*Pasatiempo*, Santa Fe's ubiquitous arts and entertainment weekly magazine, has been covering northern New Mexico's active and high impact arts industry for nearly three decades.

*Pasatiempo* is published by the Santa Fe *New Mexican*, the city's locally owned, independent daily newspaper since 1849. The *New Mexican* has supported Santa Fe's many arts organizations and cultural events from its very beginnings, most especially under publisher Robert McKinney and now through the leadership of his daughter, publisher Robin Martin.

*Pasatiempo* is locally produced and uses no syndication or wire services for its editorial content which each week includes a mix of stories and reviews for music, dance, theater, books, films, architecture, restaurants, galleries and museum exhibitions.

"*Pasatiempo* editor Kristina Melcher, associate editor Robert Nott, art director Marcella Sandoval, and a staff of dedicated and skilled writers, take on, every week, a dizzying array of articles," said Richard Gaddes, the recently retired director of the Santa Fe Opera, in his letter supporting the nomination. "It has been noted that an average issue of *Pasatiempo* has the same amount of editorial material as does a Sunday *New York Times* Arts and Leisure section."

Not only does *Pasatiempo* cover arts events with feature stories and reviews, it also serves as an advocate and important watchdog, making sure that organizations live up to the promises they make. The magazine's writers and editors are not afraid to point

out when promises are not met, and the result is a healthier arts industry and a more appreciative audience.

“Santa Fe’s vibrant arts scene has achieved international prominence, but it’s impossible to imagine how that level of recognition could have occurred without the steadfast support for the arts demonstrated at the local level by *Pasatiempo*, its astute and hardworking reporters and editors, and the *New Mexican’s* enlightened and committed management,” said Jon Bowman, the executive director of the Santa Fe Film Festival, in his nomination letter.

“Every other week, another newspaper folds,” Bowman said. “Against such a backdrop, where the very survival of newspapers appears in doubt, the thoughtful and nurturing coverage, as well as dedication toward the arts exhibited by *Pasatiempo*, becomes all the more singular – even heroic and inspiring.”

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