July 2, 2007

ARTISTS HONORED AT 61st ROCHESTER-FINGER LAKES EXHIBITION

ROCHESTER, NY — Eight cash awards totaling $4,600 have been presented to artists for works of exceptional merit at the 2007 Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition. The show, which is presented every two years, is on view at the Memorial Art Gallery through September 2.

Seven of the awards were chosen by this year's jurors--Mark Alice Durant, professor of visual arts at University of Maryland and faculty member, Milton Avery Graduate School for the Arts, Bard College, and Sofia Hernandez Chong Cuy, curator and programs manager at Art in General, New York City.

Earlier this month, Durant and Cuy issued a jurors’ statement, titled ‘Secrets.’ “Like a pair of polite Dr. Frankensteins, we asked ourselves how then to make a ‘body’ out of so many disparate and varied parts? We selected works that seemed to hold secrets, a kind of hidden knowledge that only images and objects can promise, and in doing so we hope that we have provided a visual experience that teases out unforeseen relationships in previously unrelated works.” To read the complete jurors' statement visit http://mag.rochester.edu/exhibitions/Rochester-FingerLakes/.

An eighth award, the Alice E. Koret award, was selected by a Gallery docent.

• Memorial Art Gallery Award of excellence ($1,000): Christian Carson of Brockport, Untitled (oil on linen), pictured above

• Gertrude Herdle Moore/Isabel Herdle Award, given by The Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery ($500): Harry Littell of Ithaca, Untitled #2 and Untitled #3 (archival digital prints)

• Elmer Louis Award, given in memory of Mr. Louis by his family ($600): A. E. Ted Aub of Geneva, Ajashi and Mues euM (bronze and wood)

• Arena Group Award ($500): Susan Lakin of Rochester, Christine and Joyce & Jim (C-prints)

• Louis D’Amanda Memorial Award, given by Louis D’Amanda in memory of his grandfather ($500): Gary Trento of Skaneateles, White Blouse/Green Skirt (oil on canvas)

• Oxford Gallery Award ($500): Lorraine Bohonos of Rochester, Red Portrait and Woman in Gray (oils on canvas)

• Rochester Art Club Award, for excellence in painting ($500): Lynette K. Stephenson of Hamilton, NOLA drowned (oil on canvas)

• Alice E. Koret/Docent Award, given in memory of Alice E. Koret by Dr. Sidney Koret, friends and family, and selected by a Gallery docent ($500): Michael Beitz of Batavia, Crossing (terra cotta)

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In a tradition dating back to 1954, visitors during the first two weeks of the show also chose Michael Beitz’s Crossing (above, Koret Award) as winner of the Harris Popular Vote Award, given in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Manville S. Harris. This award, which carries a cash prize of $500, was announced July 2.

This year’s Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition is sponsored by Richard F. Brush.

Virtual catalog
A catalog of the exhibition with images of all 40 works on view is available for browsing at http://magart.rochester.edu/PRT1246*1.

(For publication-quality images, see the end of this release.)

About the artists
Two-time Finger Lakes award winner A. E. Ted Aub is a professor of art at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, where he has taught for 26 years. He received his BFA in painting from Washington University, St. Louis, and his MFA in sculpture from Brooklyn College. This is his seventh Finger Lakes.

Michael Beitz graduated from Alfred University/NYS School of Ceramics with a BFA in sculpture and has been an artist-in-residence at Sculpture Space in Utica and the Roswell (NM) Museum and Art Center. A resident of Batavia, he is employed as a woodworker for the Wendell Castle Collection in Leroy. This is his first Finger Lakes.

Painter Lorraine Bohonos studied at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and works as a custom framer in Rochester. She is also a student of longtime Creative Workshop instructor Fritz Lipp. This is her first Finger Lakes.

Christian Carson earned his BFA from the University of Iowa and his MFA in painting from SUNY Albany. He is a lecturer in the art department at SUNY Brockport. This is his first Finger Lakes.

Susan Lakin earned a BFA in photography at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA, and an MFA in art studio from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Formerly a commercial photographer in Los Angeles, she came to RIT, where she is an associate professor, seven years ago. This is her first Finger Lakes.

Photographer Harry Littell earned a BFA from Cornell University and an MFA in sculpture from Alfred University. He currently teaches at Tompkins Cortland Community College. This is his third Finger Lakes.

Lynette K. Stephenson of Hamilton, Madison Co., received an MFA in painting and drawing from Georgia State University. She is an associate professor of art and art history at Colgate University. This is her first Finger Lakes.

Gary Trento received his MFA in painting from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, and taught for four decades at Syracuse University’s School of Art and Design. He lives and paints in Skaneateles. This is the 12th Finger Lakes for the two-time award winner.
About the exhibition

Although the current title was first used in 1938, the origins of the Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition can be traced to the late 1870s, when the newly formed Rochester Art Club Exhibition held its first exhibition. At that time, the show was open only to club members, but when the Memorial Art Gallery opened in 1913, joint exhibitions were organized to display the works of area artists. In 1997, the show became a biennial.

In recent years, the exhibition has become a showcase for emerging artists in western and central New York. Past award winners, many of whom have gone on to establish national reputations, have included Wendell Castle, Albert Paley, Honoré Sharrer, Hans Christensen, Bill Stewart and Kathy Calderwood.

This year, jurors Mark Alice Durant and Sofia Hernandez Chong Cuy selected 31 works by 23 artists from a field of 745 entries by 395 artists.

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