

2021 State Day Awards

Ada Biddick Award

This award was established in 2005 in memory of Ada Biddick, wife of Trelay Farms founder Elmer Biddick and an avid painter and active WRAP participant. Originally sponsored by Trelay Farms of Livingston WI, the award is now sponsored by Brad & Peggy Biddick and is given for excellence in painting.

Aaron & Ruth Bohrod Memorial Award

First established in 1977 by well-known Wisconsin artist Aaron Bohrod, this award is now a memorial award honoring Aaron Bohrod and his wife Ruth. It is currently sponsored by Katherine Schmitt and her sisters whose father, Joseph Burk, was a good friend of Aaron Bohrod. It is given for "outstanding excellence in painting" and active participation in WRAA.

Anne Irish Emerging Artist Award

Established in the memory of a dear friend, wonderful artist, thoughtful and kind person. The purpose of the award is to recognize an artist who is exhibiting for the first time at the annual AWA State Conference or has never received an award for outstanding artwork at that venue.

ArtStart Award

This award was established in 2015 by ArtStart, a group of volunteers who have created a destination arts and cultural center. Their mission is to inspire, challenge, and educate through cultural events and highly distinctive curated visual art exhibitions.

John Barton Library Award

The John Barton Award was established in 1966 by Lela Smith to honor Professor John Barton, Professor of Sociology at UW, who was deeply involved and influential in furthering the cultural welfare of the people of Wisconsin. Originally there were two awards consisting of an art book selected by the award recipients to be given to the library of their choice in their name. In 2009 the awards were changed to a cash award, and in 2010 the two awards were consolidated into one award with an increased award amount.

Carmen & Eva Beining Award

This award was established in 2007 with an endowment from Eva Beining of Platteville. Eva and her late husband Carmen began oil painting in 1979, attended many state shows and won many awards. It is given for landscape, floral or nature painting.

Berk Award

This award is funded by an endowment established in 1985 by Harold C. Berkholz of Fond du Lac WI and is given for creative achievement, excellence in execution and demonstrated artistic creativity.

Birds in Art Award

This award was established in 2015 by long-time AWA member Vina Yang. The winning piece is chosen by Vina and reflects the title of the award.

Joseph E. Burk Memorial Award

In 2003, the family of Joseph E. Burk established this memorial award to be given to an AWA member displaying talent in the area of drawing and painting. Joseph E. Burk was a commercial artist by trade, an instructor at the Waukesha Technical School and past president of AWA. At age 92 he entered his last art show with a pen and ink sketch at the annual AWA exhibit and although he won no special recognition that year, he was proud to still be able to produce work worthy of exhibit.

Julie Chang Artistic Excellence Awards

These two awards are sponsored by the C.K. & Julie Chang of Madison and are given for outstanding work in painting. They were first awarded in 2003.

Carol Betts Chaplin Portraiture Award

Established in 2009, the Carol Betts Chaplin Portraiture Award is sponsored by her daughters JoAnn Hegarty and Wanda Tetland. Their mother found great joy and fulfillment during her years of involvement with AWA, especially the years she devoted to the group while serving on the Board. Carol enjoyed many forms of art but was especially drawn to portraits. She loved all living things and knew that portraits show us the soul of these subjects, whether human or animal.

Carol Betts Chaplin Award for Artistic Achievement

Carol Betts Chaplin's daughters JoAnn Hegarty and Wanda Tetland sponsor a second award in memory of their mother. Carol loved not only portraits, she also enjoyed expressing her creativity in many ways and fields, including all mediums, yarn dyeing and weaving, fabric, pottery, photography, and even writing poetry. Thus, they wanted to honor Artistic Achievement in all of its expressions. She found great joy and fulfillment during her years of involvement with AWA and the Lakeland Art League, and the years she spent as a member of the AWA Board of Directors.

Chinese Fine Arts Association Awards

The Chinese Fine Art Association (CFFA) is a Madison based nonprofit organization whose focus is to promote and raise awareness of the various Oriental arts, particularly Chinese brush painting and Chinese calligraphy. They have sponsored an award since 2003 and currently give two awards, one to a CFFA member and one to a non-member. This year the recipients will be selected by the State Day Judge.

Contour Notes Cover Awards

The Contour Notes Cover Awards have been given since the early 1960's and are now funded by AWA. The AWA Board of Directors votes on entries submitted by the membership. The three works receiving the most votes each appear on a cover of Contour Notes in the following year.

Shirley A. Diedrich Award

This award was established in 2019 by the eight children of Shirley Diedrich to honor their mother's spirit and continued devotion to the creation of art. The recipient should be someone who is passionate about art and excels in any medium.

Shirley A. Diedrich Lifelong Learner Award

This award was established in 2019 by the eight children of Shirley Diedrich to honor their mother's passion about learning. They said, "our mother strives to learn something new about art every day, learning new techniques and honing her amazing talent."

Joan Fernan Memorial Award

This award was established in 2011 by Ann and Patrick Fernan in memory of their mother, Joan Fernan. Joan enjoyed the group, the people, the critiques and competition that AWA represents.

Five Painters Awards

The Five Painters from Madison and the surrounding area have sponsored two awards to AWA members since 2003. Current members of the group are C.K. Chang, Terrence Doeler, Tracy Wiklund, Donna Miller, and David Whitish Scheifel. The awards are given for painting with the winners selected by the State Judge.

Five Painters Choice Award

In 2006, the Five Painters began sponsoring a new award called the Five Painters Choice Award. The recipient of this award is selected by the Five Painters themselves rather than the State Judge.

Fond du Lac Artists Association Award

The Fond du Lac Artists Association has sponsored this award since 2004. The award is given for excellent work in any media.

Ella Gardner Award

This award was established in 2008 by the Gardner family in memory of Ella Gardner, a long-time member of WRAA and participant in WRAP. Selected by a member of the Gardner family, the work is typically 2-D with a rural theme.

Catherine Hundt Art Award

This award has been given since 2003 and is funded by the Catherine Hundt Scholarship Fund. The award recognizes excellence in oil or watercolor, and is preferably a rural, farming or nature subject matter. It is chosen by the State Day Judge.

Inman Creativity Award

Established in 2018, this award honors the talent and service of the AWA (formerly WRAA) Past President Mary Ann Inman. Noted for her creative spirit, both in leading AWA but also in her teaching, Mary Ann is beloved by all who have learned from her and served with her.

Mary Ann Inman Award

This award was established by AWA Board member Rebecca Herb in 2020. It is in honor of Mary Ann Inman, former AWA President and is presented for art showing outstanding creativity. Special consideration is given to emerging artists. The Piece is selected by Becky.

Janesville Art League Award

The League has long been active in promoting the arts and is known for the team efforts they put forth in every project they undertake. They established this award in 2019.

Janet Margaret Johnson Award

The Janet Margaret Johnson Award was established in 2020 by Angela Johnson and her husband Justin Bitner, in memory of Angela's aunt, Janet Margaret Johnson. While Janet was not an artist herself, she was an art enabler to others.

Bonnie Johnson Award

This award is given in memory of Bonnie Johnson who was an accomplished painter, an active member of AWA (formerly WRAA), and one of the original Five Painters group. It is sponsored by Bonnie's children.

Francis M. Kipp Award for Creativity

This award was established in 2008 by Lee Fenendael to honor Francis M. Kipp, a family member who led the family in exploring their creativity. The intent of this award is to encourage participants to explore and expand their creativity. The underlying vision is "Show me something I haven't seen before."

Lakeland Art League Memorial Awards

Lakeland Art League sponsors two awards, given for outstanding work in any fine arts or craft medium that does not employ "gimmicks". It is hoped that the recipient will use the award as a means of continuing art training or education.

Lodi Art Club Award

The Lodi Art Club has sponsored two awards since 1983 and was the first local art club to establish a state day award. The club hopes the award recipients will use the funds as a means to continue art training or education.

Mary Lou Lindroth Award

The Mary Lou Lindroth Award was started in 2007 and was originally sponsored by Mary Lou Lindroth herself. After Mary Lou's untimely death, her family decided to continue the award in her memory. A family member makes the selection of a work that is in any medium and considered outstanding.

Madison Watercolor Society Award of Merit

Established in 2019, this award honors an outstanding work in watercolor painting. The Society is committed to providing a supportive environment that encourages the development and enhancement of members' technical skills and creative journeys in painting with watercolors.

Marge Engelman Award

This award is sponsored by Marge Engelman and is made in appreciation of Wautoma's Rural Rembrandts, who in the 1950's nudged along her artistic interests and abilities.

Mike McKinnon Memorial Award

This award is sponsored by the Janesville WRAP in memory of Mike McKinnon, an artist and photographer, and long time contributor and supporter of the Janesville WRAP.

Donna Miller Treasurer's Award

The Treasurer's award was established in 1988 by Donna Miller upon her retirement from the AWA Board of Directors, having served as Treasurer for 12 years. The recipient of the award is selected for meritorious work in any painting medium.

Edith Miller Award

This award was established in 2014 as a two-year award by family members in memory of their mother, Edith Miller, who had a great love and passion for AWA (formerly WRAA). Edith entered many WRAP shows, served as AWA president, and was a recipient of the John Steuart Curry award. The children and families of Edith Miller are Linda & Terry Stroud Family, Wayne & Bonnie Miller Family, Sandra & Warren Lada Family, Patty & Fred Manor Family, Connie & Dale Holthusen Family, and Allen & Robin Miller Family. Subsequently family member Donna Miller extended the funding to continue the award.

Ness-Wood Wildlife Art Award

This award recognizes and promotes artwork featuring wildlife art. Established in 2011 by the Ness-Wood family the recipient is selected by David and Jan Wood.

Rountree Gallery Award Funded by FOG

This award is sponsored by Friends of Our Gallery (FOG), the support organization for the Rountree Gallery in Platteville which has hosted WRAP shows since 2002.

Rural Art Wisconsin Award

This award is sponsored by Jean Lang. It is given to an artist depicting life or scenes of rural Wisconsin - in the old WRAP tradition.

Rural Rembrandts Art Club Founder's Award

The Rural Rembrandts Art Club from the Wautoma area has sponsored an award since 1995 and currently gives two awards, one for excellence in 2-D work and one for excellence in 3-D work.

Shake Rag Alley Award

This award is sponsored in honor of Sharon Stauffer by Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts, a nonprofit arts education center in Mineral Point. It is given for creative use of materials or design elements.

Walworth County Arts Council Award

Sponsored by the Walworth County Arts Council, this award has been given since 2002 for outstanding artwork in any medium.

Waukesha Creative Arts League Award

This award has been sponsored by the Waukesha Creative Arts League since 1993. It is given for outstanding work in any medium.

Whitewater Arts Alliance Award

The Whitewater Arts Alliance began sponsoring this award in 2008. The mission of The Whitewater Arts Alliance is to support, promote, and develop the visual and performing arts through an alliance of artists, organizations, businesses, education, and individuals to foster creativity, diversity, and economic vitality in the Whitewater area.

Young Artist Award

This award was established in 2007 by C.K. Chang and Jean Lang to recognize outstanding work by young artists under the age of 25. It is currently supported by Julie and C.K. Chang.

WRAA Memorial Service Awards

This award was established to honor three board members, Lela Smith, Grace Pendleton and Modesta Macke who died in an automobile accident on the way to an AWA (formerly WRAA) board meeting. The award recognizes meritorious service in promoting the aims and activities of AWA. The recipient is selected by the AWA Board of Directors at the spring meeting from nominations from the membership.

Berk Service Award

This service award is given to an individual or local art group in recognition of achievement in promoting AWA membership and arts in Wisconsin. The recipient is selected by the AWA Board of Directors at its spring meeting from nominations from the membership.

Sponsor Awards

The Sponsor Awards were established in 1998 to recognize the contribution of the WRAP regional workshop sponsors. One award is given for the highest number of participating artists and one award is given for the largest increase in participating artists over the previous year. The awards are sponsored by Julie and C.K. Chang.

Innovative Sponsor Award

The Innovative Sponsor Award is a one-time award given in 2020 to a sponsor for going above and beyond to make a WRAP virtual during the pandemic.

WRAA Youth Service Award

This award was established by AWA in 2007 and is given for meritorious service in support of youth-oriented arts programs. The award is funded by AWA and the recipient is selected by the AWA Board of Directors at its spring meeting from nominations submitted by AWA members.

Crown for a Day Award

Crown for a Day is an award that was established in 2018 to recognize an AWA member who has long participated in WRAP workshops and AWA activities and leadership. The artist has created art throughout the years and encouraged others in that same effort. Nominations come from the membership and are chosen by the AWA Board.

Futuristic Leadership Award

The Futuristic Leadership Award is a one-time award given in 2020 for exceptional, innovative leadership.