

2023 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 Katharine 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 AWA.

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 Memorial Award

This award is funded by an endowment established in 1985 by Harold C. Berkholtz 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 or the State Day Judge and reflects the title of the award.

Nanci Buchanan Creative Art Award

Since 2014 Nanci Buchanan had been the Gallery Manager of the Red Door Gallery (RDG) operated by the Richland Area Arts Council. She was a vibrant person and a wonderful artist who worked with acrylics and collage using vibrant colors and patterns. We lost her to pancreatic cancer in December, 2022 at the young age of 62. She had a passion for children's art and was a wonderful teacher for youngsters exploring their creativity. This annual award in her memory was established by her fellow RDG artists and friends to celebrate her gifts.

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.

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.

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."

Five Painters Awards

The Five Painters from Madison and the surrounding area have sponsored 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 AWA 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 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.

Bonnie Johnson Award

This award is given in memory of Bonnie Johnson who was an accomplished painter, an active member of AWA, 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."

Lodi Art Club Award

The Lodi Art Club has sponsored 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.

Mike McKinnon Memorial Award

Mike McKinnon was an integral member of the Janeville Art League WRAP committee, always advocating for educating our participants. The WRAP event highlighted an artist paired with an appropriate theme and as a well known amateur photographer and master teacher he strived to combine the two.

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 recognizes art that depicts Wisconsin's rural areas and/or rural life. The award also commemorates the very early WRAP, which was a rural-focused art project of the UW College of Agriculture. This award is sponsored by Jean Lang.

James Schwalbach Radio Art Award

This award is sponsored by Arra Lasse. Having been a primary student of James Schwalbach's radio art instructions, Let's Draw, Arra has been the recipient of the largess and benefits of WRAP. It is an honor for her to give an award at the WRAP State Conference.

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.

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.

John Steuart Curry Award

The most prestigious award given by AWA, the John Steuart Curry medal has been given since 1958 in recognition of outstanding work in promoting art in their area - not for profit, but for the joy of helping others. Nominees contribute to the artistic community, public at large or group within those two. It is named after the first Artist in Residence at UW Madison. The recipient is selected by the AWA Board of Directors at its spring meeting from nominations from the membership.

AWA 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 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 first-time participants and one award is given for the largest increase in participants over the previous year. The awards are sponsored by Julie and C.K. Chang.

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.