



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

For Immediate Release: January 6, 2009

Contact: Christine D'Arcy, 503-986-0087, christine.t.darcy@state.or.us
Shannon Planchon, 503-229-6062, shannon.planchon@state.or.us

Oregon Arts Commission Awards Thirteen Artist Fellowships

Grants Recognize Excellence in Performing and Literary Arts

The Oregon Arts Commission announces 13 recipients of its 2009 Individual Fellowships, this year awarded to performers and writers of exceptional talent and demonstrated ability, professional achievement and continuing dedication to an artistic discipline. Peer-review panels of artists and arts professionals from across Oregon recommended the recipients to the Arts Commission. The Fellowship program alternates between visual and performing/literary artists. Visual artists will once again be recognized in 2010.

Fellows may use the \$3,000 award to complete work in progress or embark on a new body of work, undertake research, study or experiment with new materials or media.

Over ninety artists working in the literary and performing arts submitted applications for review. "The artists selected this year have proven themselves to be thoughtful, with outstanding talent and a commitment to the creation of new work. These artists are representative of the highest caliber that Oregon offers," commented Arts Commissioner Henry Sayre of Bend, chair of the fellowship review panels.

Oregon's 2009 Artist Fellowships are:

Elizabeth Enslin, non-fiction writer, Portland

An anthropologist, Enslin's writing about Nepal and its people for general readers successfully diverges from her academic work. Enslin's personal history includes a marriage that took her to Nepal and her current writing explores her experience there as anthropologist, wife and mother in an unsentimental, meaningful and compelling approach.

Robin Goodrin Nordli, actress, Ashland

Goodrin Nordli is a classically trained actress, with more than 15 seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She has played leading roles nationwide and is also a teacher and coach, sharing her love of theater through classes, workshops and lectures. This year, Goodrin Nordli will travel to Beijing to teach and perform as a guest artist at the newly formed National Shakespeare Festival.

Debra Gwartney, writer, Eugene

Gwartney is co-editor, with Barry Lopez, of *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*, published in 2006. With writing that is direct, honest and beautifully crafted, her short stories, personal narratives, essays and articles have appeared in numerous journals, magazines and newspapers. Her current work continues her exploration of the memoir, and the meaning of privacy, family and truth.

Tere Mathern, dancer/choreographer, Portland

Mathern's work leans toward the architectural, combining abstract forms and spatial awareness with fluid, forceful momentum in a unique choreographic voice. Mathern has been professionally involved in contemporary dance for over 18 years as a performer, choreographer and educator. She holds an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies focusing on Modern & Contemporary Dance from New York University, and a Certification in Movement Analysis (C.M.A.) from the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies in New York.

Brian McWhorter, musician, Eugene

A trumpeter, McWhorter characterizes his work as colliding among many schools of music. *Timbrando*, his most recent album, features contemporary music from Latin America. He performs with many groups including the Meridian Arts Ensemble, Ne(x)tworks, and After Quartet. A graduate of The Juilliard School and the University of Oregon, McWhorter holds faculty positions at the University of Oregon and the Manhattan School of Music.

Scott Nadelson, writer, Salem

Nadelson is the author of two story collections, *The Cantor's Daughter*, winner of the Samuel Goldberg & Sons Fiction Prize for Emerging Jewish Writers; and *Saving Stanley: The Brickman Stories*, winner of the Oregon Book Award for short fiction. Nadelson's character-driven works, often with a Jewish theme, describe people struggling between the competing influences of their fears and desires, sometimes sabotaging their own best interests.

Mary Oslund, dancer/choreographer, Portland

One of the Northwest's leading dance artists, Oslund's work is authentic, beautiful and masterful. She has advanced contemporary dance through bold, new work of compelling choreography and her ability to support successful collaboration in the community. Oslund is co-founder/director of Conduit Studio, an important hub for creative dance in Portland. Her teaching career has included serving on the faculties of Reed College, Lewis & Clark College, and the University of Oregon, among others.

Ethan Rose, musician/sound artist, Portland

A musician from a young age, Rose began experimenting with computer music in college. His work reflects his interest in interpreting acoustic sound with technologies, new and old, and the restless exploration of musical form. Over the past ten years, he has released recordings, scored films, performed internationally, created sound installations, and worked with a variety of collaborators. His music is electronic in nature but maintains an organic quality because of his acoustic sources.

Greg Steinke, musician, Depoe Bay

An oboist and composer, Steinke has been a performer and educator, teaching at Marylhurst University and Linfield College in Oregon, among many others. His work with a wide variety of musical experiences has been recognized with awards from BMI and ASCAP as well as numerous grants. Steinke has served as guest composer at both national and international festivals, creating works described as both romantic and lyrical.

Cheryl Strayed, writer, Portland

A strong, fearless writer with an expansive vision, Strayed is author of the critically acclaimed novel, *Torch* (Houghton Mifflin), selected by *The Oregonian* as one of the top ten books by Pacific Northwest authors in 2006. Strayed's award-winning stories and essays have appeared in over a dozen magazines, journals, and anthologies, including twice in *Best American Essays*. She is currently working on a memoir, *Wild*, exploring loss, grief, redemption and love.

George Taylor, playwright, Beaverton

Taylor recently began a second career as a playwright building on his past experience as an actor and director and his long career as a writer in a variety of genres. His current play, *Renaissance*, involves a real-life painting competition between Leonardo and Michelangelo. With an inventive story line and engaging characters, the play becomes a springboard to explore the eternal themes of art and politics, jealousy and regret.

Ellen Waterston, writer, Bend

A New Englander who married and moved to the ranching West, Waterston grounds her writing in both of those cultural and geographic landscapes. Her landscape writing is evocative, describing the expanse, the topography and the vernacular of the high desert compellingly. Additionally, her work promoting literacy and literature through the festival she founded, the Nature of Words, illustrates the connection she has with her central Oregon home.

Crystal Williams, poet, Lake Oswego

Author of *Kin* and *Lunatic*, Crystal Williams' poetry appears in magazines such as *Luna*, *Fourth River*, *Callaloo*, *The Indiana Review*, and in the anthologies: *American Poetry: The Next Generation*, *Poetry Nation*, *Sweet Jesus*, and *Beyond the Frontier*, among others. She is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Economic Development Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at:

www.oregonartscommission.org