

Delaware artists on display at Biggs



Submitted photo

This three-dimensional art installation made by Ron Logsdorf of Wilmington for the Biggs Museum Award Winners IX show is meant to make people question themselves, others and the space they live in.

Award Winners IX shows best state has to offer

By Katie Kazimir
Delaware State News

DOVER — Who needs a big city to explore some of the latest multimedia art when the Biggs Museum downtown Dover is exhibiting Award Winners IX?

"Award Winners IX is our annual summer show that allows the community to have a taste of the local art scene in Delaware," said Sarah DiMondi, spokeswoman for the museum.

"The artists whose works are featured in the annual

Award Winners show have the honor of winning the Delaware Division of Art's annual distinguished fellowship prizes."

The artists include poets, writers, musicians, folk artists, and visual artists.

The fellows are chosen by a committee from hundreds of entries.

In a partnership with the Division of Arts, the staff of the Biggs Museum invites each year's award winners to

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the only group exhibition honoring their combined accomplishment.

The annual Award Winners exhibition is one of the most important annual projects at the Biggs Museum, Ms. DiMondi said.

The mission of the museum is to celebrate artistic diversity, provide public educational access to Delaware's fine arts community, and to bring more awareness of both the museum and art to the community.

"Developing arts awareness in the community is a major component of the Biggs Museum's mission," said Ms. DiMondi.

"The annual Award Winners show allows us to trace the evolution of the local art scene in Delaware. By presenting these artists together, the Biggs Museum acts as a hub and a catalyst for the local arts community."

Ms. DiMondi said the hope is displaying these artists works side by side will invite conversation, comparison, debate and reflection of the diverse nature of work being created in Delaware.

Ten Delaware artists were awarded individual artist fellowships by the Delaware Division of the Arts in 2008.

The artists demonstrated excellence in



Submitted photo

Nancy Carol Willis' work won the award for Visual Arts, Works on Paper.

their work and have been judged by out-of-state experts in their artistic disciplines.

Fellowships were awarded in three categories, masters for \$10,000, established for \$6,000 and emerging \$3,000.

"The purpose of a fellowship is to provide artists the resources and time to further develop their talents and advance their careers," said Ms. DiMondi.

"The fellowship year also provides an opportunity for an exhibit, performance, reading, or other public presentation by each recipient."

The 2009 DDOA fellowship recipients to be featured in the Award Winners IX exhibition include visual artists Stephen Ruszkowski, Ronald Brignac, Ronald Longsdorf and Nancy Carol Willis; writers Robert Davis, Ramona Long, Elizabeth Dolan and Abby Millager and musicians Eileen Gryck and Christian Taggart.

Mr. Longsdorf, 26, from Wilmington, created a three-dimensional sculpture installation just for the Biggs Museum made of insulation and resembling the interior of a home.

"I wanted to talk about the spaces we live in and what sort of narrative we develop," he said.

His contemporary pieces are built using found objects and materials from hardware stores, and are meant to make people think about themselves and how they interact with others and the space they are in.

"Art is an idea, and you are sort of visually manifesting these ideas — often abstract," he said.

"I think the expression that would best

explain the Award Winners exhibition is "think outside the box." Summer visitors that have come to the museum not expecting to see Award Winners have been surprised, fascinated, sometimes perplexed, and engaged," said Ms. DiMondi.

"Award Winners is a complete departure from the permanent collection and invites us all to redefine 'American art.' The exhibition invites interpretation and conversation."

Award Winners IX will be on view through Oct. 25.

For more information, visit www.biggs-museum.org or call 674-2111.

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Delaware State News, Katie Kazimir

Poetry and literature are also art forms on display as part of the Biggs exhibit, complete with a reading nook and poems imposed on the wall.