

NEWS RELEASE

6 WOOD ARTISTS CREATE AWARDS FOR GOVERNORS ARTS AWARDS HONOREES; PRESENTATIONS AT ORPHEUM THEATRE, MONDAY, APRIL 19

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 24, 2010): Six Arizona artists who specialize in wood pieces, several whose artwork can be found in permanent private and museum collections, have created the honoree awards for the 29th annual Arizona Governor's Arts Awards which will be presented on Monday, April 19 at the Orpheum Theatre.

The artists are:

Jared Quamahongnewa, an 18-year-old member of the Hopi Nation who belongs to the Spider Clan, started carving Katsina dolls at 10. Using cottonwood root and natural pigments for paint and ties on the dolls feathers his work quickly gained recognition, winning second place during his first show at the Heard Museum Student Art Show in 2007. Most recently, he won the 2009 Best of Show and Best of Division III, qualifying his entry into the 9th Annual Katsina Doll Carvers Show at the Heard Museum this April.

Virginia Dotson of Show Low (www.patina-gallery.com/artsbios.dotson.php) has been a studio wood turner for 25 years following graduation from the ASU School of Art (now the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts). Her work is in many museum collections including the Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of Arts and Design in New York and the ASU Art Museum.

Zarco Guerrero (<http://zarkmask.com>), a well-known Mesa-born mask maker, has dedicated his artistic endeavors to create positive social change. Zarco worked as a community muralist in Cesar Chavez non-violent labor movement in the 1970s, later adopting the Chavez ideology of art as a social service. Currently a Professor of Drawing and Painting at ASU West. He has been the focus of a one-hour PBS documentary and is a former Arizona Governors Arts Award honoree.

Tania Radda (www.taniaradda.com), originally from Brazil and now a Fountain Hills resident, earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture and Master of Fine Arts in Wood Sculpture from Arizona State University. Her work can be found in museum and private collections and she has been called the wood magician by some for her unique talent of magically bending wood to extremes. She has taught at ASU and Yavapai College.

Gary Scarpulla (www.woodturninggallery.net), a Chandler woodturner for eight years, is a member of diverse wood artist associations, including the American Association of Woodturners (AAW), Arizona Woodturners Association (AWA) Ornamental Turners International (OTI) and The Society of Ornamental Turners (SOT). He specializes in ornamental woodturning using a mechanical lathe capable of pattern generation. Scarpulla's work was most recently featured at the Beneath the Bark: Wood Art exhibition.

Ahwatukee resident Richard Altenhofen (www.raltenhofen.com) loves to take a piece of wood that would otherwise end up in a landfill and create an object of beauty and

function. Called the Sonoran Desert Woodturner, Althenhofen's favorite is desert ironwood. His love affair with wood goes back to his Oregon childhood when he made a small lathe from an Erector Set motor. In 2009, his work was on view at the Chandler Center for the Arts during an exhibition celebrating Arizona wood artists.

The Governors Arts Awards are presented by Arizona Citizens for the Arts, the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Office of the Governor to recognize outstanding achievement and contributions to Arizona's arts community. Nearly 80 nominations from 19 Arizona communities were submitted in five categories. The sixth award, the annual Shelley Award, is being presented to Tucson arts advocate and supporter Shirley Chann. Recipients of the other five awards will be announced at the event.

Under a new, streamlined fast-moving format, the Governors Arts Awards begins with pre-awards cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 to 7 p.m. A one-hour presentation of awards follows from 7-8 p.m. with a post-awards dessert reception from 8-9 p.m.

Individual tickets purchased before March 31 are \$135 and \$150 after that date. A range of sponsorship levels also are available beginning with ten-ticket packages for \$2500 for individuals and businesses, and \$1350 to \$1500 for arts and culture not-for-profit organizations.

For questions, additional information, sponsorships or ticket purchases, call Arizona Citizens for the Arts at (602) 253-6535 or visit www.GovernorsArtsAwards.org

Arizona Citizens for the Arts

Arizona Citizens for the Arts is the premier arts advocacy organization in Arizona dedicated to the mission of discussion and awareness of the importance and impact of the arts in achieving quality of life, educational excellence and economic health for all Arizonans and Arizona enterprises. For information visit www.azcitizensforthearts.org

Arizona Commission on the Arts

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is the state agency that connects artists and communities. The Commission features many diverse programs and services for Arizona residents. For information visit www.azarts.gov.

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