

Central Minnesota Arts Board
P. O. Box 458
Foley, MN 56329

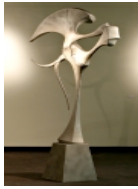
Leslie Schumacher
CMAB Executive Director
320-968-4290
director@centralmnartsboard.org

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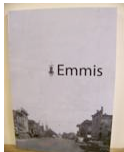
CENTRAL MINNESOTA ARTS BOARD ANNOUNCES INDIVIDUAL ARTIST AWARD RECIPIENTS

Foley, MN, April 21, 2009: The Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2009 Individual Artist Awards. Four Artists will each receive an award of \$3,000.

Individual Artist Award Recipients:



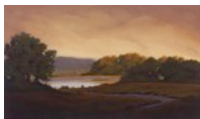
- Sam Spiczka, Sculptor, Sartell, Stearns County – “My sculpture is inspired by [a] conflict between an ideal state and an imperfect reality,” said Spicka



- Cecil Wade, Author of the book *Emmis*, Foley, Benton County – Wade said, “My passion to step out of the shadows with a poem, a story, a report of an actuality allows me to embrace the phenomena called life, my voice joined with all voices say, ‘I am alive. Hear me.’”



- Shirley Jean Hove, Painter, St. Cloud, Stearns County – “Painting in oils is not something I chose to do because it seemed to be a fun pastime – but rather a medium I loved and just had to do,” said Hove.



- Mary Opatz Herges, Painter, St. Cloud, Stearns County – Opatz-Herges stated, “Using a limited palette, my paintings evolve by using many layers of opaque paint and transparent glazes.”

The purpose of the Individual Artist Award program is to recognize, reward and encourage outstanding artists in the region who have demonstrated prominent artistic achievement. Artists at various stages of their careers applied for this Award. An advisory panel made up of seven professional artists reviewed work samples from 44 applicants from the four county area. Based on the recommendations of this panel, the CMAB awarded a total of **\$12,000** in Individual Artist Awards. Funding for the CMAB Individual Artist Award program is provided by The McKnight Foundation.

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The CMAB 2009 Artist Panel Volunteers included:

- **Jean Loy Swanson** has earned her degree in art education and a master of fine arts in ceramics and metals. She has taught at various universities and colleges. Jean has explored mixed media sculpture, drawing and photography as well as developing ink jet prints. Her work has been displayed throughout the United States including at the American Craft Museum in NYC, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC and the SOFA Annual Exhibit at Chicago's Navy Pier where she was awarded the prize for first place purchase award in 1991. Jean is a past recipient of a CMAB Individual Artist's Grant. Her art is in public, corporate and private collections including three National Parks, McNeese University in Lake Charles, LA, Lake Bank in Duluth, MN, Allina Clinic of St. Michael, MN, North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, MN, Great River Energy in Minnesota, Wichita State University and the Wichita Art Center in Wichita, Kansas.
- **Mary Jo Holewa** has a degree in English Education and is the Executive Director of The Troupe Theatre, an elected township official, Executive VP of MN Association of Community Theatres and CMAB Board Member.
- **Chris Rasmussen** is a retired art teacher serving Foley Senior High for 35 years. She is the present Chair of the Central Minnesota Arts Board of Directors. She also serves as a director on the board for Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and CSB/SJU Fine Arts Programming Advisory Council.
- **Sharon Tracy** an Arts Foundations teacher with the Buffalo High School's Art Magnet program, Humanities and English Teacher, retired; Elk River Area Arts Alliance, director, retired; CMAB Board Member.
- **David Hunt** earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Dakota in engineering technology with a minor in Visual Arts (drawing, painting, printing, design, color theory and graphic design). He has an extensive artistic/design education at the University of Minnesota in graduate architecture and form design. Hunt is experienced and highly skilled in a variety of two dimensional media including marker, color pencil, graphite, oil pastel, watercolor pencil and watercolor, oils serigraphy, woodcut and acrylic. Acrylic painting is the primary media.
- **Denise Gagner**, owner of Studio D Portrait Studio, is the past director of Visual Arts of Minnesota and the current past president of United Arts of Central Minnesota.
- **Sue Wipf** teaches at the Studio at Rush Creek in Maple Grove. Sue has studied with Harvey Schroeder and taken workshops from David Leffel, Sherrie McGraw, Carolyn Anderson, Robert Johnson, Gregg Kreutz, Matt Smith, Skip Whitcomb, Marc R Hanson, and Mary Pettis. Her paintings are accepted into national juried shows and are owned by collectors around the country.

The CMAB is one of eleven regional art councils in the State of Minnesota with the purpose of supporting and promoting art appreciation throughout region 7W, consisting of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright. For more information about the Central MN Arts Board grant opportunities and services go to www.centralmnartsboard.org or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.

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