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**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***

**Central MN Arts Board Awards \$25,000 Artist Career Development Grants**

At their November meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$25,000 in Artist Career Development grants. The CMAB Artist Career Development program provides funds of up to \$3,000 in support of projects, training opportunities and purchases that assist artists in making the next step in their artistic careers. Funding for this program is provided through the McKnight Foundation.

Three main criteria are used to evaluate applications: Artistic quality and merit, Professional need and ability. An applicant must rank a 3.0 or higher to be considered for funding.

**The following artists received grants:**

**Dan Mondloch, Stearns County, \$3,000** to purchase materials for practice in painting figures, create 16 plein air and 16 studio paintings that will be exhibited at a local venue to generate exposure, sales and used in national art show competitions as a means to pursue new markets.

**Heidi Steadman, Benton County, \$3,000** for the purchase of a nipping press, finishing presses, guillotine paper cutter, working table with storage, and supplies to produce hand-bound books, in her studio.

**Joel Cherrico, Stearns County, \$3,000** for the creation of over 1,000 pieces of pottery with a new glazing technique. 500 pieces will be used to approach a new coffee shop with a successful installation and business model currently used.

**Daniel O'Bryant, Stearns County, \$3,000** to attend a professional orchestra conductors workshop with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and master-teacher Markand Thakar, on December 15-19, 2012.

**Andrea Fedele, Stearns County, \$1,595** to take fifteen private oboe lessons with mentor, Kathryn Greenbank, Principal Oboist of the St Paul Chamber Orchestra. Techniques learned during the mentorship will be shared during lessons with her students.

**Ronald Ringer, Stearns County, \$2,984** to work with mentor, Mariusz Olszewski, to improve his ability to perform and choreograph ballroom dance routines. Techniques learned will be taught to StudioJeff dancers.

**Dodie Logue, Wright County, \$3,000** for the production of a limited edition artist book, "Trees", that will consist of charcoal drawings. Each drawing will be accompanied by a poem written by poet Mary Logue.

**Gwen Hanvy, Stearns County, \$3,000** to merge yoga into the designing of one-of-a-kind yoga themed quilt patterns for marketing.

**Christopher Zlatic, Stearns County, \$2,421** for the purchase of airbrush equipment that will advance and specialize his artistic production of large wall murals.

The CMAB has served Region 7W for over thirty-years as one of eleven Regional Art Councils designated by the Minnesota State Arts Board to promote and enhance the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in Region 7W. The CMAB serves the four counties of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright counties.

For more information about the Central MN Arts Board grants and services go to [www.centralmnartsboard.org](http://www.centralmnartsboard.org) or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.