

Arts Council of Fairfax County Announces 3 Artist Awards



Fluid # 8, © 2011; Acrylic on mylar and fiberglass rods; 18" x 32" x 4.5"; Rebecca Kamen

Fairfax County, VA – The Arts Council of Fairfax County announces its sixth annual Strauss Artist Awards for 2013. The three recipients are Diane Coburn Bruning, Susan Eder and Craig Dennis, and Rebecca Kamen. “The artist grants program recognizes Fairfax County based professional artists, their achievements, and enables the artists’ continued pursuit of their creative work,” says Linda S. Sullivan, president & CEO, of the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

On behalf of Fairfax County, the Arts Council awards \$500,000 in grants to arts organizations and individual artists in the County each year. The Strauss Artist Awards, named for Bill Strauss (1947-2007), gifted writer, cofounder of the Capitol Steps and the Cappies, are an investment in the sustained growth and development of the arts in Fairfax County as well as a way to honor artists’ commitment to an artistic discipline and their contributions to the quality of life in Fairfax County.

All three artists have been nominated because of their excellence and professionalism in their field. Diane Coburn Bruning is an award-winning choreographer who has worked with dance, theatre and opera companies throughout the U.S. and abroad. Ms. Coburn Bruning recently moved to Fairfax County from New York, and has been working with local groups including GMU School of Arts and the Washington Opera as well as setting the framework to relocate her company, Chamber Dance Project, to Fairfax. According to Ms. Coburn Bruning: "Grant programs such as the Strauss Artist Awards not only provide the artist with some financial freedom to create their work, but gives encouragement, too." Ms. Coburn Bruning's work can be seen at <https://usaprojects.org/project/pendulum>.

Susan Eder and Craig Dennis, recognized as a team, received the FY13 Strauss award and are a previous recipients of the Strauss Fellowship. Their collaborative cloud photographs and butterfly series, viewable at <http://ederdennis.com>, bridge the gap between representation and abstraction. Ms. Eder and Mr. Dennis are currently represented by Marsha Matekyka Gallery in Washington, DC.

Rebecca Kamen is a visual artist and also a previous recipient. Her work promotes a heightened awareness of the shared qualities of science and art, and how each discipline can inform and inspire the other. Ms. Kamen's work is represented in many private and public collections and can be seen at <http://rebeccakamen.com>.

The Strauss Artist Awards are awarded through a competitive grant program where the recipients are determined by their work's merit. No specific project needs to be carried out with the funds granted. Fairfax County based artists in all disciplines including visual arts, creative writing, theatre, dance performance and choreography, film and new media, music composition and performance are eligible to apply.

For more information on the Arts Council's grant programs visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants>. All Strauss artist awardees can be seen at <http://artsfairfax.org/strauss-artist-awards/recipients>.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. It is the only umbrella organization serving and representing all forms of art in Fairfax County.

The Arts Council of Fairfax County is the voice of the arts, dedicated to fostering dynamic and diverse local arts, ensuring that arts thrive by providing vision, leadership, capacity building services, advocacy, funding, education, and information.

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