

American Heritage
Committee

Women in the Arts Recognition Award



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National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

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Women in the Arts Recognition Award

Instituted in July 2011, this award is non-competitive and granted when all the criteria listed on the application form are received by the National Vice Chair.

The genre of music composition should submit a copy of their composition or a recording of the composition. If the composition can be found online, please give the link. The literature and drama authorship genre can submit the books, magazine articles, poems, etc. or scanned copies. The other art genres can send photos of the art to be examined. In all, please send no more than 10 photos. This information should accompany the two (2) letters of recommendation.

As part of the American Heritage Committee this is a non-performance art award, designed to recognize and honor a woman who has exhibited excellence in her chosen genre. The application form states this award "is designed to recognize worthy women for outstanding achievements..." This means recognition at the community level by a Chapter or State Society and not by the National Society as with all other American Heritage competitive awards. This has frequently been misinterpreted as contributions to the community using their artistic talent or community service. While these contributions are admirable, we must note that this is strictly a non-performance art award.

- The letters of recommendation must explain exactly why the nominee's work is "beyond mastery of technique". Mentioning all the nominee has done to improve art within the local community and schools is certainly admirable, but the focus of the recommendation is to identify the genre, medium and style that make this nominees art worthy of the award.
- The letters of recommendation should be on letterhead stationery and identify the person writing the recommendation as having experience, training or a level of expertise to evaluate the art of the nominee. It should not be a heading created by the writer.



Samples Taken from the Two Required Recommendation Letters with Letterhead

Fiber Arts Design and Creation

Quilting: She has been a bright spot in keeping the traditions of folk art alive in her little corner of the world. She has long been known as an artist in the quilting field, using paper piecing technique in hand piecing the quilt into her designs. This method assures sharp corners and unique designs. The quilts are then hand quilted. Her quilts are indeed works of art. Give her a few scraps of cloth and she will create something of beauty.

Quilting: Starting with gorgeous photographs as design inspiration, she literally turned foundation paper piecing upside-down. Her quilt pieces placed on top of the fabric scene in progress, not on the bottom as with ordinary foundation paper piecing. Unlike previous methods, it involves no waste, the pieces are re-usable, and the quilter can watch what she is doing. It is a flexible method that allows the artist hands-on control of the pieces, allowing for less ripping and mistakes. Most quilters appreciate that there is no picking out of paper upon completion.

Costume: There are many artists who paint historically accurate works of art and they rely on drawings or written accounts of fashion. She will actually design and create painstakingly accurate elaborate costumes for her models to wear. Her artistic attention to detail and expertise in creating those costumes is impressive and she's created quite an extensive wardrobe for her subjects.

Embroidery: As thousands of needle art enthusiasts have certainly been inspired for all through the ages, there have been very few who today possess the vision and artistry that comes so naturally to her. Her knowledge of the needle arts and its preservation is exemplary. Her vast knowledge of historic technique allows her to understand the importance of the needle arts for women from all centuries and from all parts of the world. She has created smocking designs and clothing patterns that have appeared in a variety of national and international publications.



Fine Arts and Sculpture Design and Creation

Painting: The mark of a gifted artist, one who goes beyond just mastery of the basics of painting, is the development of one's own unique and recognizable technique. Her work exhibits an elegant show of rich colors, in a style that is contemporary, yet at the same time allows the viewer to recognize time, place and detail. Her paintings border on realism, but with a postmodern twist. Equally proficient in oils and acrylics, she designs city scenes and landscapes with a panache that forces the viewer to stop and look twice.

Painting: I am constantly amazed at the imagination, technique and scope of her art. Her work encompasses an amazing range of ideas and she is constantly furthering her art by a program of continued education and study. She is a painter in addition to her skill as an award-winning architect. She is constantly combining these fields into everything that she creates be it a building design or a painting or a sculpture. Whether she is doing a very complex piece or a very simple piece, she is able to bring together all the parts so that the piece may first be viewed as very simple, but upon reflection is a work that pulls the viewer into deep contemplation of the thoughts and feelings behind the work. She has moved beyond just painting to other fields of study; to bring the ideas of authors and musicians into her work. She is constantly exploring anything that can bring new ideas to her own creations.

Painting: At a young age she blended her father's keen observational skills and her mother's artistic bent. While her studies in life-like drawing really opened her eyes, in Hawai'i she found her passion: Hawai'i's endemic birds. In her watercolors, oils and pastels, the native birds of Hawai'i come to life and fly off the page. Beyond her ability to bring Hawai'i's birds to life on canvas, she has captured the hearts and imagination of people everywhere. Truly, she is the modern-day Audubon of Hawai'i's birds.

Painting: She is most well-known for her birch tree paintings. Her use of movement, color and texture conveys unique emotions in each piece. Other signature art includes pet portraits, using oil paints with a pallet knife, that brought two-dimensional photo of a pet to life with texture and depth for the customer eager to capture in art the joy of their pet. Her efforts, dedication and the inspiration she has brought to all that have known her are recognized throughout the area.



Pastels: Lighting composition and surprise elements such as bubbles or marbles are very much in her creative process. A viewer first encounters the subject matter in her work then the color. A strong light source motivates her to depict the real world and its colors; working from hard to soft and from dark to light with the last being the icing on the cake.

Sculpture: The sculpture works of ... one would realize that her art is professionally executed in classical heritage. Her bronze upper torso with the Greek mythological roots evokes the stability of the western world and her handling of form in this work and other works representing the human figure are fine.

Sculpture: She has created work that is always sincere, grounded in her core values and deeply held personal beliefs. Using varied materials and the addition of color, she explores traditional themes while developing her authentic voice as an artist. As an example,bronze, explores faith and narrative, using figurative sculpture, abstract shapes, color and media to arrive at a deeply felt expression of a universal subject, the nature of spirituality.

Muralist: She is an accomplished visual artist and muralist. She has a passion for public art and has created numerous large works in the area. She has taken inspiration from the lush, tropical surroundings that translate into her murals. I was amazed at the sheer beauty of many of the gorgeous murals of nature that were created to transform many utility facilities into works of art.

Portrait Sketch: Her love of art drives her determination to achieve the high standards she sets for herself. Her continuous training in the style of *incamminati* has pushed her ability to a whole new level. Her understanding of anatomy, form and color are phenomenal, and her likenesses are uncanny. I am always amazed with her gesture work at the beginning of a drawing or painting. The movement in the gesture is beautiful and it continues through to the completion of the drawing or painting never losing that initial gesture that I love. I feel all of these traits have contributed to her success.

Portraiture: She is a gifted artist, specializing in portraiture and landscapes. Her art demonstrates a strong ability in narrative art, the rich use of color, and exceptional drawing skills. Her portraits and landscapes are compelling and have been said to transcend tragedy into hope.

Printmaking: Her art resonates with our Society's interest in conservation, education and dedication to our American artistic heritage. She helps her viewers see the world around us in accurate scale, while creatively reiterating its natural beauty. She has mastered the printmaking art and uses the sharp tools of this medium to express the minute detail of the very small, as well as very large things.

Stained Glass: As interested in preserving the legacy and techniques of the thousand-year history of stained glass as she is in pushing the glass medium into new areas, ...designs and constructs stained, painted, mosaiced, laminated and decorative glass artwork based on observation and imagination. Glass is a medium which lives and interacts with its environment. Her passion lies in creating new works of art which blend the desires of her client's ideas with her own imaginings and technical expertise in a demanding craft

Dolls: I have watched her career build over the years as she advanced in her technical knowledge of sculpting, casting in porcelain clay, firing and exceptional painting. She has kept alive a dying art form previously perfected by German and French factories. She has chosen a field that contributes to our new generation of children the skill of nurturing. Her dolls are true replicas of children of the world. Native American, Eskimo babies, children and also whimsical fairies are all part of her repertoire.

Photography: Her work reflects amazing patience and care of her subjects, as well as a high level of competence in lighting, color and sitting. In addition, she handles a broad range of challenges - from the live action of moving animals and battle reenactments, to the human models and scenic environments.

Photography: She mulls over composition ideas for hours on end to ensure originality and labors equally hard during her shoots to produce a top-notch still that could rival those who offer similar services to the public on a professional level. Every photograph is shot in manual, paying close attention to shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. When she finally has "the shot" she'll visit my office and we'll spend a considerable amount of time combing the photos together before reaching a decision. She is a perfectionist behind the camera and modest when her work hits the newsprint.

Cake Decorating: As a certified Trainer/Product Developer for Wilton Cake Decorating Instructors, I have seen her work in both cake decorating and candy making for many years. She is a skilled and talented artist in both mediums. Her creativity and imagination is apparent in all her work. She has an eye for color and is able to use shading and highlight to create depth and interest in her pieces.



Music Composition

Music: Music is an important part of her life. She has composed classical and jazz music most of her life, beginning with piano lessons at 6 years of age. Finding a German Third Reich 5 Pfennig coin, her imagination was triggered to wonder through whose hands this coin could have passed. She researched the poetry of Holocaust victims and accounts of the wives of German officers, creating both a piano composition and a screenplay with these ideas. She composed her final version of the music for piano only and performed the solo piano part for all rehearsals and the world premiere.



Literature and Drama Composition

Literature Authorship: What draws me to her writing as a literary journal editor is the depth of her message and the wisdom that permeates her writing. She is a careful and honest writer, patiently laying out her ideas about home and family and allowing the reader to experience the steadfastness of those ideals. She writes with much awareness, letting the reader in close; there's an understatement to her writing that rings with purpose.

Poetry: Pleasure in the mouth, pleasure in the swiftness and accuracy of perception, pleasure in observing a mind divided against itself interrogate its every assumption, pleasure in following the tough-minded investigations of self and the world through the lens of physics, neurobiology, natural and human history – all these singular pleasures coalesce into poems rich with lyric feeling and a passionately precise syntax. Her use of rhyme shows why virtuosity coupled with psychological insight can get you closer to the heart of things in ten lines than a pages-long narrative full of intimate details. Her understanding that poetry quintessentially formal art has allowed her to create her own conventions and explode the usual dichotomies between politics and private life, between tradition and the programmatically avant-garde. She is a true original.

Poetry: Her poetic style showcases a subtle wit but includes deep themes of community, kinship, belonging, identity, relationships and the toll then urban sprawl takes upon the places we call home. This poet has a keen eye for poetic craft, especially sound and rhythm, making her poems both musical and meaningful.



Literature Authorship: In the world of children's literature, it is exceedingly rare to find a writer with the special gifts she possesses in abundance. She has the distinct and original voice, a powerful and vivid imagination, and she is a born storyteller. Each of her novels features memorable characters-characters I can still hear in my mind years after reading about them, characters who live and breathe and show young people a way of life they might not have encountered or considered or imagined.

Artisan Design and Creation

(Jewelry, metalwork, decorative painting and pottery)

Jewelry: She is interested in working in unusual mountings and different approaches to attaching ceramic pieces to metal. She has produced original designs in many forms of jewelry, including a headpiece which embraces the history of architectural ornaments...as a subversive tool to lead to inquiry (of form). Her whimsical stick figure brooches in silver, ceramic and enamel are local favorites.

Multi-media: She is an artist who rigorously pursues her artistic vision. Her artworks are about historical preservation and revitalization. She works with architectural and recycled found objects in her collages and paintings, combining paint, photos and handmade papers to create her artworks.

Ceramics: She has worked in figurative ceramics with recurring themes of the various roles' women have in their community and environment, among which are memory, family obligations, gender roles, spirituality and personal identity. Her work is largely hand built with added mixed media elements which add to the narrative of her figures.

