

RECEIPIENTS 2008-2010

ENDURING VISION AWARDS



Arthur D. Amiotte - 2010

Custer, South Dakota

A Lakota artist and art historian, Amiotte was born and raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. His current work in collage documents the history and culture of the Sioux people. Amiotte uses images from epic, mural-sized drawings by his great-grandfather Standing Bear (1870 to 1930) to create a visual narrative of his family during this period. The collage materials tell the story of Lakota people adapting to the farming and ranching lifestyle, economy and society of the reservation in the late 19th and 20th centuries. After receiving the Arts International Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Artists Fellowship in 1997, Amiotte lived at the Claude Monet residence in Giverny, France, where he began making collages mixing images of Indians in tribal and historical settings. In Amiotte's collages, the Sioux who traveled with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show are portrayed in European cities and

landscapes as they reflect on the newness and strangeness of their experiences. The texts that appear in the paintings are the words of his great-grandfather, grandparents and others of their generation. The Bush Foundation previously awarded Amiotte a Bush Leadership Fellowship in 1980 and Bush Artist Fellowship in 2002. He exhibits regionally, nationally and internationally.

Painter Frank Big Bear - 2008

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Big Bear was born in Detroit Lakes and spent his early years on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota. Though largely self-taught, he began his art in earnest while a student at North High School in Minneapolis and later studied with George Morrison at the University of Minnesota. His colorful, intricate, Prismacolor pencil works provide a personal account of both the recent history and present-day experience of American Indians. Big Bear's works have been seen at the Bockley Gallery in Minneapolis, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Heard Museum in Phoenix, and Institute of American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe. His drawings are in the collections of the Walker Art Center, the British Museum in London and the Frederick R. Weisman Museum, among others. In September 2008 the Tweed Museum in Duluth showed a retrospective of Big Bear's work.



Bounxou Daoheuang Chanthraphone - 2010

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Born in Laos in 1947, Chanthraphone learned Lao weaving arts from her mother and my grandmother. In the midst of war in the 1970s, she left Laos for Thailand with, in her words "my life and my weaving skills." In Ubon Refugee Camp, she taught weaving to Lao women, enabling them to earn a living and regain their dignity. With their earnings, the women build a school for children in the camp. In 1982, she immigrated to the United States where she continues to teach traditional Lao weaving arts to young people and adults. She uses hand, eye, history, myth, lore and wisdom to tell stories of religion, family and friends, special celebrations and journeys. She often hand-dyes silk threads with berries, roots and tree bark before weaving traditional Lao skirts, dresses for traditional dancing, shawls and wall hangings covered with striking design motifs and symbolic images. Some of her intricate weaving takes as long as six months to a year to complete. In 2000, she was honored with the National Heritage

Fellowship Award, a lifetime award for folk artists granted through the National Endowment for the Arts. Chanthraphone is the recipient of a 2002 Bush Artist Fellowship and was instrumental in founding a Lao community center in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Mary Louise Defender Wilson (Wagmuhawin, "Gourd Woman") (Dakotah/Hidatsa) - 2009

Shields, North Dakota

Defender Wilson grew up in a family of storytellers and midwives on the Standing Rock (Sioux) Reservation in North Dakota. Raised speaking Dakotah, she began telling her tribes' ancient narratives as a young girl, marveling at how much her relatives knew and how tribal stories, which talked about values and human nature, taught them to think deeply. Celebrated for her gift of storytelling, she is the recipient of the coveted National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the nation's highest honor for a traditional artist. She also has received the H. Councill Trenholm Memorial Award from the National Education Association for Human and Civil Rights, the 2009 Community Spirit Award from First Peoples Fund, and has been honored at the Native American Music Awards with the Best Spoken Word Award. Defender Wilson teaches the Dakotah language at Standing Rock Community College in Fort Yates, North Dakota.



Kevin Locke (Tokaheya Inajin, "The First to Arise") (Lakota, Hunkpapa Band/Anishinaabe) - 2009

Wakpala, South Dakota

Locke is known throughout the world as a Hoop Dancer, the preeminent player of the indigenous Northern Plains flute, a traditional storyteller, cultural ambassador, recording artist and educator. While his early instructions were received from his immediate family and community, from his extended family in every part of the world Locke has learned many lessons in global citizenship and how we each can draw from our individual heritages to create a vibrant, evolving global civilization embracing and celebrating our collective heritage. His joy is working with children on the reservations to ensure the survival and growth of indigenous culture. He is acknowledged to be the pivotal force in the now powerful revival of the indigenous flute tradition, which had teetered on the brink of extinction. Locke was awarded a 1990 National Heritage Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Janel Jacobson - 2008

Harris, Minnesota

Jacobson is a wood carver whose exquisite works are collected and exhibited by many of the major museums in the country, including the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery and New York's Museum of Art and Design. During more than ten years as a potter, she began carving in stoneware and porcelain clay. Her work eventually evolved into carving very small porcelain sculptures and then to carving hardwoods. Today her works have grown in scale and scope from small netsuke (functional, miniature sculptures used to suspend a pouch or small container from kimono sashes) and ojime (sliding beads on cords that hold the pouch or containers closed) to stand-alone small sculptures. She has received top awards in many of the premier craft shows in the country, including those of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Smithsonian.



Walter Piehl Jr. - 2008

Minot, North Dakota

Using acrylic on canvas or paper, Piehl treats Western Americana themes with modern art influences and interpretation. He combines an expressionistic style with literal and interpretive investigations of many facets of Western American life. His work is often large in scale (48 inches or more), in series, abstract, and saturated with color and contrast. His work has been exhibited at places as diverse as the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy in Colorado, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art in Indianapolis and the Palm Gallery in San Diego. He has been a professor in fine arts at Minot State University since 1970.



Paul Shambroom - 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Shambroom explores American power and culture through his photography. For over 20 years he has documented subjects as broad as industrial and office environments the U.S. nuclear arsenal, small town council meetings and post-9/11 Homeland Security preparations. His most recent project is *Shrines: Public Weapons in America*. His work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Walker Art Center and many others. His photographs were included in the 1997 Whitney Biennial, and he has had solo exhibitions at the Walker Art Center, the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago and galleries in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and London. His work has been published in three monographs: *Paul Shambroom: Picturing Power* (2008), *Meetings* (2004) and *Face to Face with the Bomb: Nuclear Reality After the Cold War* (2003). Shambroom has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Creative Capital Foundation, among others, including Bush Artist Fellowships in 1992 and 2002.

Michael Sommers - 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sommers has practiced the theatre arts as a designer, director, composer, performer, playwright and technician, both locally and nationally for thirty years. In 2000 he and his partner Susan Haas co-founded Open Eye Figure Theatre, and in 2007 the company opened an intimate venue in South Minneapolis. Sommers' work has been seen in venues ranging from major cultural institutions to backyards and the street. Through these experiences, and drawing from traditional theatrical forms, classical text, populist entertainment, folk art and the comedy and "tragedy of our daily lives," Sommers says he "creates original work that speaks in a contemporary voice directly to the audience." His work has been presented at the Walker Art Center and in New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Canada, and Mexico. He is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota.

