

Alabama Artists Gallery

The Alabama State Council on the Arts is proud to showcase the work of Alabama artists in its Montgomery gallery in the RSA Tower

(Hours are Monday - Friday 8 a.m - 5 p.m.)

CELEBRATING CONTEMPORARY ART IN ALABAMA

November 20, 2009 - January 15, 2010

Pinky Bass
Barbara Lee Black
Annie Kammerer Butrus
Gary Chapman
Glenn Dasher
Randy Gachet
Nancy Goodman
Sheila Hagler

Murray Johnston
Dale Lewis
Steve Loucks
Christopher McNulty
Ted Metz
Scott Meyer
Robert Michelson
John Phillips

Amy Pleasant
Nathan Purath
Guadalupe Robinson
Carolyn Scherer
Scott Stephens
Rachel Wright

The exhibition *Celebrating Contemporary Art in Alabama: The Nature of Being Southern* was held at the Johnson Center for the Arts in Troy from August 14 through November 8, 2009 and was the result of a collaborative effort between the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Troy-Pike Cultural Art Center, Inc. and Troy University. The presentation established for the first time a survey of works by a uniquely identified group of Alabama artists. These artists have received Individual Artist Fellowships from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Selection for these fellowships, currently given in the amount of \$5000, requires an application, followed by a panel review by experts in the field, and finally approval by the full Council. Guidelines for the program state that the awards are made "based on merit of work, career achievement, career potential, and service to the state." Specifically, considerations focus on the excellence of the work and the professional commitment of the artist.

The staff at the Johnson Center issued invitations to participate in the exhibition, resulting in positive responses from 41 artists who had been honored by the Council from 1987-2009. Works include the full range of visual art: sculpture, drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, craft and experimental approaches. Because of space limitations, The Alabama Artists Gallery selected works by 22 of the initial artists to continue the exhibit in Montgomery.

This is a celebration of excellence like no other. This is an opportunity to view the best of creativity—art made with passion, purpose, knowledge, and understanding of process and materials. This is a chance to look at recent art developments, to view contemporary expression, to study growth and change in an artist's work, to enter the dialogue. This is an opportunity to understand the best of Alabama.

