RACC Awards Artist Fellowships to Chel White and Craig Lesley

From the Executive Director

Eloise Damrosch, RACC Executive Director

Portland appears to be back in the murals business. As you may know, City Council approved Mayor Katz’s proposal to remove public art from the sign code, which has, for 6 years, limited the size of all painted wall images to a 200 square feet maximum and regulated as signs artworks such as the sculptures at PGE Park.

Since RACC is designated to manage all aspects of the City’s public art collection, we will review proposed murals. In order for a mural to be “public”, a building owner will turn over a wall to the City via a simple easement form and a signed agreement that the mural will remain unchanged for at least 5 years. The easement will, however, allow for change should the building require renovation or be sold.

RACC is currently working out the program details, including adding a murals expert to the Public Art Advisory Committee, which will consider these projects. We are also sorting through funding options, designing the approvals process to be as streamlined as possible, and planning for annual evaluation of the program.

We are grateful for the Mayor’s leadership and for a year of staff and volunteer time to make this happen. The program is not perfect, but, the best we can design for now given the extraordinary (and positive) protections afforded us all by the Oregon Constitution. I will leave the legal ramifications to my good friends in the Mayor and City Attorney’s offices, who have been champs. Let’s get busy and paint!

The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) has announced this year’s Artist Fellowship Awards. After a lengthy process, which involved 25 applicants and a two-part panel, RACC presented the Media Arts award to filmmaker Chel White and the Literary award to writer Craig Lesley.

These Fellowships are considered among the most prestigious in the Northwest and carry a cash award of $20,000 each. Annually, in rotating disciplines, they recognize local artists who are the strongest representatives of the quality and range of art in the tri-county region. They provide artists with significant financial support that will allow them to spend concentrated time working on their art, which will eventually be shared with the community at large.

Chel White is a provocative, skilled filmmaker. His intense, 20+ years involvement with film has produced a broad spectrum of outstanding visual style and narrative content. Chel is a true craftsman with his camera work, which was described by members of the Fellowship Panel as “gutsy,” “aesthetically compelling,” and “brilliant.” Chel’s commitment to live and produce work in Portland has brought attention to the region, and has leveraged other projects that have created work for other local filmmakers and artists. Chel is a strong mentor figure to young filmmakers and fellow artists.

With the Fellowship funds, Chel plans to make a 90-minute experimental, narrative film, entitled The Strongest Boy in the World. The RACC Fellowship will enable Chel to devote serious time and energy to completing the original screenplay, casting the roles, scouting locations and ultimately shooting the film.

“Mid-career is really the ideal time in an artist's life to award this kind of fellowship “ Chel observed. “S/he has created a significant body of work by this point as well as demonstrated a commitment to a medium. There are also, ideally, many productive years to come. I genuinely believe artists give to the community in which they practice their art. Culture and artistic expression are hard to measure on a spreadsheet, but the support of artists comes back to all of us in the vitality of a region. It is important to nurture strong artistic voices. The Regional Arts & Culture Council’s Artist’s Fellowship Award in particular shows genuine forward thinking about the artist’s role in society.”

— continued on flap
AROUND TOWN
All events funded in part by the Regional Arts & Culture Council


1/7-2/13 22nd Reel Music Festival, NW Film Center, 503.221.1356, www.nwfilm.org


1/23 The BFG (Big Friendly Giant), Oregon Children’s Theatre, 503.228.9571, www.octc.org


1/13-16 Imagining Home: Stories of Columbia Villa, a documentary film by Sue Arbuthnot and Richard Wilhelm, 503.287.3731

1/14-20 The Lisbon Traviata by Terrence McNally, Profile Theatre, 503.242.0080

1/14-24 Amadeus by Peter Shaffer, Lakewood Theatre Company, 503.635.3901, www.lakewood-center.org


1/16 Witness Our Schools, Sojourn Theatre, 503.645.2757, www.sojourntheatre.org


1/18-2/5 Things of Dry Hours by Naomi Wallace, Portland Center Stage, 503.274.6588, www.pcs.org


1/30 Performing Wellness 6, The Well Arts Institute, 503.636.2216, www.wellarts.org

1/31 Kavafian-Schub-Shifrin Trio Debut Recital, Chamber Music Northwest, 503.294.6400, www.cmnw.org

2/5-12 Madame Butterfly by Puccini, Portland Opera, 503.241.1802, www.portlandopera.org


2/11-13 Austria, Portland Baroque Orchestra, 503.222.6000, www.pbo.org


For more: www.racc.org/news/events.php

RACC receives NEA Grant. RACC, in partnership with the Housing Authority of Portland, received a $10,000 Challenge America Fast-Track Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the Community Garden Fence at the New Columbia Housing Project. The public art piece fabricated of laser-cut metal panels includes images of plants and food, as well as quotations that reflect the similarities and differences of the ethnically diverse residents of New Columbia.

RACC’s Eloise Damrosch to Serve as Oregon Advocacy Captain. Americans for the Arts has selected Eloise Damrosch as their Advocacy Captain in Oregon. She will distribute important information about national initiatives and advocacy opportunities at the national and state levels and participate in National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC mid-March.

RACC Awarded New Public Art Management Contract. The team of Barney and Worth and RACC was recently selected to develop a public art master plan for the City of Roanoke, Virginia. This is similar to the effort the same team undertook a couple of years ago for Chattanooga, Tennessee.

1/15 Talent to Enterprise Workshop: Artists Wanted. Focusing on public art and artists. Sponsored by RACC and The University of Portland Center for Entrepreneurship. (See Back Page)

Upcoming RACC Grant Opportunities:
• Professional Development Grants (Cycle I) assist artists or arts administrators with opportunities that specifically improve their business management development skills and/or bring the artist or the arts organization to another level artistically. Application Available at www.racc.org: 1/10/05; Deadline: 3/14/05, 5pm.

Upcoming Public Art Opportunities:
• Visual Chronicle of Portland, a city-owned archival collection of works on paper that portrays artists’ ideas, visions, and perceptions of what makes this city unique. For guidelines visit www.racc.org. Contact: Peggy Kendellen, Public Art Manager, 503.823.4196 or pkendellen@racc.org. Deadline: 1/28/05.

RACC Performance Installation in February:
2/2-6 Penta: WATER (below). Fifth and Final Installment by dancer/choreographer Cydney Wilkes presented by RACC’s in situ PORTLAND program. This outdoor dance performance is part of a year-long series of five ground-and-aerial duets inspired by the Five-Elements Theory. 6pm, South Waterfront Park by the Marquam Bridge, near 2100 SW River Parkway. Free. Bring blankets or chairs. See www.cydneywilkes.org or call 503.823.5111 for details.

For updates: www.racc.org/resources/_ANRACCOpportunities.php

Penta: WATER Feb 2-6 South Waterfront Park

Photo: Basil Childers
Clackamas & Washington County Art News

1/10-17/05 The Art Gym: Unexpected Watercolors presents watercolors by 9 NW artists that are unusual in their scale, subject matter, and use of the media. Marylhurst University, 17600 Pacific Highway, Marylhurst, www.marylhurst.edu/underinfo/press/images/index.html. (C)

1/11-22 Her Eyes See Strength, an exhibition by Anne John and Becky Semlons, who focus on imaginative narrative, female introspection and social connections. Also, Art Classes & Workshops are offered year round. The Glenn and Viola Walters Culture Arts Center Gallery, 527 East Main Street, Hillsboro, 503.655.3961, www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/wcac. (W)

1/14-20 Amadeus by Peter Schaffer, presented by Lakewood Theatre Company. Set in 18th century Vienna, the play pits blazing human ambition against heavy genius, in what becomes a battle of life and death. Winner of 5 Tony Awards including best play, Lakewood Theatre, 368 S. State Street, Lake Oswego, 503.635.3901, www.lakewood-center.org. (C)

2/6-20 23rd Annual Beaverton Arts Commission’s Visual Showcase and Sale, featuring over 100 works of fine art by regional artists. Beaverton City Library, Rooms A&B, 12375 SW 5th Ave. Opening reception 2/5, 7-9 pm. Call the Beaverton Arts Commission at 503.526.2288. (W)

Call for Artists and Volunteers for the 6th Annual Wilsonville Festival of Arts 2005 (6/11-12), which presents Visual, Performing, and Literary Artists from Wilsonville and neighboring communities. Held at Town Center Park. Call Wendy Reznicek, at 503.981.5647 or email to WendyR@CenterStageVA.com. (C)

For more: www.racc.org/resources_ANWAandClack.php

Grants/Fellowships/Residencies

Grants from Oregon Arts Commission: Operating Support Grants (matching) fund the operations of and public access to programs of Oregon’s arts organizations (annual income of $50,000+) and their contribution to the quality of life. Deadline: 1/31/05. Individual Artist Fellowship in Literature and the Performing Arts recognize outstanding work created by artists throughout Oregon. Artists may use the $3,000 fellowship grants to complete work in progress or embark on a new body of work, undertake research, study or travel, or experiment with new materials or media. Deadline: 2/14/05. Graduate Artist Fellowship in Literature and the Performing Arts recognize outstanding work created by artists throughout Oregon. Artists may use the $5,000 fellowship grants to complete work in progress or embark on a new body of work, undertake research, study or travel, or experiment with new materials or media. Deadline: 2/18/05.

Creative Capital, 65 Bleecker Street, 7th floor, New York, NY 10012, 212.598.9900. Letter of Intent Deadline: 3/14/05.

Visit: www.oregonartscouncil.org or at Oregon Arts Commission, 775 Summer Street NE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97301, 503.986.0082, oregon.artscouncil@oregonstate.or.us.

Creative/Cultural Economy Initiative/Professional Development Grants to Portland artists can be used for education; technical assistance or training related to a creative endeavor, micro-enterprise, or entrepreneurship; assets related to business; or marketing. Grants up to $500. Contact: Rosie Williams, Worksystems, Inc., 711 SW Alder, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97205, 503.476.7363, rwilliams@worksystems.org. Deadline: 3/31/05.

Asian Cultural Council provides grants to individuals in the visual and performing arts to conduct research, study, receive specialized training, undertake observation tours, or pursue creative activity in Asia. Visit www.asianculturalcouncil.org. Deadline: 2/1/05.

Fishtrap Summer Fellowship Program (7/10-17). Cost of the writer’s workshop, registration, and food & lodging for the writers workshop, registration, and food & lodging for the Fishtrap Summer Fellowship Program (7/10-17). Deadline: 2/5/05.

Multi-Arts Production Fund (MAP) supports US-based organizations with a tax-exempt 501c(3) tax status or individual artists partnering with such an organization. Project-focused grants for the commissioning, development and/or production of a new work in theater, music composition, dance, puppetry, opera and interdisciplinary performance. Contact: 212.226.1677, www.mapfund.org. Deadline: 2/18/05.

2005-06 Creative Capital Grants for performing arts and emerging fields. Innovative literature now added to the emerging fields category, which refers to work that challenges traditional notions of literary forms and concepts. Inquiry Form available 2/14/05 at www.creative-capital.org. Contact: Creative Capital, 65 Bleecker Street, 7th floor, New York, NY 10012, 212.598.9900. Letter of Intent Deadline: 3/14/05.

Junior and Senior Artist-in-Residence Programs at Oregon College of Art & Craft. The Junior Residency for the post-graduate artist to pursue a proposed body of work over a four-month period. Funds: $1200 stipend, $500 travel and $500 supplies. The Senior Residency for the mid-career artist working in any of the following media: book arts, printmaking, ceramics, drawing/painting, fibers, metal, photography or wood. Funds $750 fellowship, $500 travel and $200 for supplies. Visit: www.ocac.edu. Both have Deadline of: 4/1/05.

For more: www.racc.org/resources_ANGrants.php

Competitions

2005 Playwriting Competition sponsored by Lake Oswego Foundation for the Arts and the Lakewood Theatre Company. Area playwrights may have their new plays developed and presented as stage readings in a professional theatre environment. Submit an unproduced play, one act or full length. Call 503.675.3738. Submit to: Lakewood Theatre Company Play Submissions, PO Box 274, Lake Oswego, OR 97034. Deadline: 1/14/05.

3rd Annual Screenwriting Competition for Women in Film and Video seeks to promote film roles for women as well as women in screenwriting. Entries must be authored or co-authored by a woman and/or feature a woman in a prominent role. Fee: $60; for WIFV/NE members: $40. Visit www.womeninfilmvideo.org. Deadline: 1/15/05.


For more: www.racc.org/resources_ANGCompetition.php

21DogYears by Mike Daisy (at right) will be presented by Portland Center Stage from Jan 1-Feb 6. A one man show about the humiliation and hilarity of working at Amazon.com during the early years. Extra performances have been added. See www.pcs.org. Portland Center Stage receives General Support funding from RACC.
The PDX Film Festival (4/20-24) dedicated to showcasing new innovative works of film and video - looking for artistic, underground, quirky and challenging work that reflects contemporary culture, documents historic oddities, and is generally unclassifiable. Categories: experimental, documentary, underground. Fee $15. See www.peripheralproduce.com. Late Entry Deadline: 1/15/05.

TriMet Call for Sculpture: Seek existing sculpture or proposals for sculpture for the Beaverton Central MAX Station. Sculpture must be appropriate for outdoor, urban setting; safe, durable and easy to maintain. Budget: $30,000. Visit www.trimet.org/publicart or call Mary Priester 503.962.2291. Deadline 1/17/05.


Call to Artists - Portland Community College is currently soliciting artwork for its newly constructed Southeast Center. For complete information follow link at http://spot.pcc.edu/call2artists. Extended Deadline: 1/30/05.

Call for Artists for 8th Annual Portland Arts Festival (6/17-19) at the PSU South Park blocks. Features fine art and fine crafts. Gives the audience the opportunity to meet, interact with, view the works of and purchase art from the individuals who created it. Visit www.rosefestival.org, 503.227.2681 to receive an application. Postmarked Deadline: 1/31/05.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANCompetitions.php

Workshops/Conferences/Lectures

1/13 Blue Sky Lecture Series: Photographer Lucy Capehart. Slides presentation tracing her evolution as a photographer and her current project on Navajo and roadside crosses. Blue Sky Gallery, 1231 NW Hoyt, Portland, 503.225.0210.

1/15 RACC's Talent to Enterprise Workshop: Artists Wanted. (See Back Page)

Beginning 1/25: The Writer's Circle with writer/performer Gigi Rosenberg. Weekly class for writers who want to re-ignite a passion for writing. Sessions include prompts to spark stories, monologues and memoir. Class format encourages experimentation and offers helpful feedback. Contact: 503.771.0860 or email: gigirosenberg@earthlink.net for details.

1/29 The Art of Water Exploratorium for Artists designed to reveal the essence of water in sculptures, public art, and landscape design projects. Explore the rhythmic forms of water, and how it flows in circular vortices, spirals and waves that echo the very rhythm of life. Led by Urban Water Works at PNCA, 1241 NW Johnson, 10 AM to 4 PM. $40, scholarships available. Contact Anne Mavor at annem@urbanwaterworks.org.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANWorkshops.php

Job Opportunities

Art History at Reed College. One-year appointment. Start fall 2005. Specialty in an area of late medieval, Renaissance, or Baroque art or architecture. The appointment entails teaching introductory and advanced courses. Submit resume, a letter describing teaching and scholarly interests, and 3 letters of reference to Chair, Western Art History Search, Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock, Portland, OR 97202. william.diebold@reed.edu. Deadline: 1/15/05.

Manager of Major Gifts sought by Portland Opera to develop, implement, and manage all aspects of a major individual gifts program to support budgeted operating needs as well as planning/strategy for an anticipated comprehensive campaign. Submit resume, cover letter and a list of 3 references to Ellen Bussing, Director of Development, Portland Opera, ZII SE Caruthers Street, Portland, OR 97234, ebussing@portlandopera.org.

Asian Art Historian (P/T) for Pacific University (Forest Grove, OR) includes teaching Japanese Art History in spring semesters and Chinese Art History in fall semesters for undergraduate students starting Feb. 2005. Request a letter of application from Patricia Cheyne, Art Department Chair at cheynep@pacificu.edu.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANJobs.php

Other Opportunities & Information

1/8 National Portfolio Day for future art students to show and discuss their art and collegiate plans with faculty and admissions members from the top 26 art colleges. Attendees are encouraged to bring original artwork and sketchbooks. Free and open to all persons interested in pursuing an education in art. Oregon College of Art & Craft, 8245 SW Barnes Road, Portland, www.ocac.edu.

2005 Annual Stafford Birthday Commemorative Readings will be presented in January throughout Oregon and Washington as well as Maryland, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Michigan. Contact: Paulann Petersen 503.236.5229 for schedule.

Sign Up for Run for the Arts, the annual jogathon to help schools raise funds for arts programming. Contact Brenda MacRoberts at Young Audiences, 503.225.5900, brenda@ya-or.org. Deadline to Register a school: 2/9/05.

Talisman (cooperative) Gallery, 1476 NE Alberta Street, Portland seeks new members. Call 503.284.8800 or see www.talismangallery.com.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANotherInfo.php

Classified

CenterStageVA: admin. support, event planning, and desktop publishing for artists/arts organizations. Call Wendy Rezniczek 503.981.5647 or www.CenterStageVA.com.

Rental Space at Artist Repertory Theatre (in SW). Office space, storage space, or option of shared conference room and rehearsal space. Call Jeff Sholian at 503.478.4889.

For more: www.racc.org/resources/_ANclassified.php
Craig Lesley is a talented storyteller who creates powerful, authentic characters in his work. “He truly knows the people and places he is writing about,” stated one Fellowship Panelist. Craig writes with a confident, lively and interesting prose style, grappling with profound issues on a personal and political level. Through his years of teaching, publishing and mentoring, Craig has devoted much of his life to the literary community of this region and beyond. He currently serves as the Senior Writer-in-Residence in the English Department at Portland State University.

With the Fellowship funds, Craig will dedicate time to write a creative non-fiction work based on his twelve years as a foster parent to a Native American boy with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). The new work will discuss the relationship with his foster son and how it led him to seek out his own father.

“Receiving a RACC Fellowship is especially gratifying,” Craig noted, “because my hunch is that I was chosen both for my writing and teaching. Both continue to be exciting. I have to add that my wife Kathy is a severe critic and her insightful comments help me shape and revise my work. With the funds, I intend to continue writing about the Oregon experience, especially the kinds of small towns where I grew up, the codes and practices valued in those towns. During the last twenty years, I believe Oregon writers have contributed many important voices to nationally recognized literature. I am proud to have a small part in that chorus, and I appreciate the continued opportunities this RACC Fellowship will provide.”

The RACC Artists Fellowship Award was established in 1999 as part of ArtsPlan 2000+. which recommended that the community recognize the value of some of the region’s most accomplished artists. To apply, professional artists must have worked in their field for 10 years and have lived in the Portland tri-county area for five.

RACC is especially grateful to the panelists who gave their time and expertise to decide on the final awards. Media Arts Panelists: Steve Amen, Jim Blashfield, Eve Epstein, Michael Gandsey, Todd Kurtzman, Ketzel Levine, Richard Moore, David Shulman (from Seattle), Irene Taylor, Robyn Tenebaum, and Ellen Thomas. Literary Arts Panelists: Mary Kay Dalgreen, Brian Doyle, Virginia Euwer-Wolff, Michele Glazer, Elizabeth Grossman, Ruth Gundle, Christopher Howell (of Spokane, Washington), Chet Orloff, Charles Seluzicki, Patricia Staton-Thomas, and Lisa Steinman.

“It is truly an honor to recognize the craft of Chel White and Craig Lesley,” stated Eloise Damrosch, Executive Director of RACC, “and to bestow this award on two people who have contributed so much to our community.” Lesley and White will be officially honored at a luncheon in late January.

Artists who have received this prestigious award in past include:
1999 Performing Arts – Obo Addy and Mary Oslund
2000 Visual Arts – Terry Toedtemeier and Christine Bourdette
2001 Literary & Media Arts – Michele Glazer and Jim Blashfield
2002 Performing Arts – Tomas Svoboda and Keith Scales
2003 Visual Arts – Michael Brophy and Judy Cooke

ART NOTES. A free bi-monthly publication of the Regional Arts & Culture Council, which serves the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area, including Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties.

Mary Bauer, Editor
Jeff Hawthorne, Director of Community Affairs
Eloise Damrosch, Executive Director

RACC VISION. To enrich community life, the Regional Arts & Culture Council and partners create an environment in which the arts and culture of the region flourish and prosper.

RACC MISSION. Through vision, leadership and service the Regional Arts & Culture Council works to integrate arts and culture in all aspects of community life.

RACC VALUES. We value freedom of artistic and cultural expression as a fundamental human right. We value a diversity of artistic and cultural experiences. We value a community in which everyone can participate in arts and culture. We value a community that celebrates and supports its artists, and its arts and cultural organizations. We value arts and culture as key elements in creating desirable places to live, work and visit.

RACC PARTNERS. RACC works in partnership with the following organizations to ensure a quality arts and culture community in our region:
- Americans for the Arts
- Arts Action Alliance of Clackamas County
- Cultural Advocacy Coalition
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts
- Oregon Arts Commission
- Oregon Cultural Trust
- Westside Cultural Alliance, Washington County

ON THE WEB. The most current and complete information regarding the information you see here in Art Notes is available on the RACC web site at www.racc.org.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER. To sign up for our free electronic edition of Art Notes, which is distributed each month, visit www.racc.org.

SUBMISSIONS. Only events funded by RACC are included in the Around Town section. Other notices about job openings, grants, etc. may be submitted, but RACC reserves the right to edit or reject material. Mail to RACC at the address listed below. Deadline for March/April: 2/15/05.
Celebrating 25 Years of Percent for Art!

2005 marks the 25th year of the Percent for Art program in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Public art has contributed significantly to our region's vibrant and animated urban landscapes. RACC has been the administrator of this public art program and invites you to join us in a year-long celebration of public art in the Portland area. Events will be listed in Art Notes and at www.racc.org.

Saturday January 15  10am-1pm
Learn More about Public Art

Talent to Enterprise Workshop: Artists Wanted

RACC Public Art staff Peggy Kendellen and Kristin Calhoun review a variety of commissioning opportunities available to artists through the City of Portland's and Multnomah County's Percent for Art programs and other public and private programs. Fee: $10. Sponsored by RACC and The University of Portland Center for Entrepreneurship. To register please visit www.up.edu/cfe and click on Community Programs or call 503.943.7782. To be held at RACC, 108 NW 9th Avenue.