



THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES
2012 ART AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 22, 2012 — The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the ten artists who will receive its 2012 awards in art. The awards will be presented in New York City in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The art prizes, totaling \$87,500, honor both established and emerging artists. The award winners were chosen from a group of 38 artists who had been invited to participate in the *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts*, which opened on March 8, 2012. The *Exhibition* continues through April 15, 2012, and features over 110 paintings, sculptures, installations, video, and works on paper. The members of this year's award selection committee were: Lois Dodd, Wolf Kahn, Alex Katz, Malcolm Morley, Thomas Nozkowski, Judy Pfaff, Dorothea Rockburne, Peter Saul, and Joel Shapiro (Chairman).



Michael E. Smith *Untitled* 2010



Joyce Pensato *Silver Donald* 2010



Forrest Myers *Bringing It All Back Home. Frosty and Debbie's Living Room 1970-2010* (partial installation view)

Arts and Letters Awards in Art

Five awards of \$7500 each are given to honor exceptional accomplishment and to encourage creative work.

JIM CAMPBELL • JOHN NEWMAN • MICHAEL E. SMITH • REBECCA SMITH • KARL WIRSUM

Jimmy Ernst Award in Art

The \$10,000 Jimmy Ernst Award is given to an artist "whose lifetime contribution to his or her vision has been both consistent and dedicated."

FORREST MYERS

John Koch Award in Art

The John Koch Award of \$10,000 is given to a young painter of figurative work.

NICOLE WITTENBERG

Award of Merit Medal for Painting

The Award of Merit Medal for Painting of \$10,000 is given to an outstanding American painter.

JOYCE PENSATO

Willard L. Metcalf Award in Art

The Willard L. Metcalf Award in Art of \$10,000 is given to a young painter, sculptor, or printmaker.

ELISA SOLIVEN

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Painting

The Rosenthal Family Foundation Award of \$10,000 is given to a "young American painter of distinction."

NATHLIE PROVOSTY

Art Purchase Program — The Academy’s purchase program began in 1946 to place the work of talented, living American artists in museums across the country. Since the inauguration of this program, the Academy has spent nearly \$3 million to purchase over 1100 works of art. The American Impressionist painter Childe Hassam (1859-1935) founded this program through the bequest of over 400 of his works with the stipulation that the accumulated income from their sale be used to establish a fund to purchase paintings and works on paper. Similar bequests were made by Academy members Eugene Speicher (1883-1962), Louis Betts (1873-1961), and Gardner Symons (1861-1930). All works purchased through this program will be donated to American museums.

**LARRY BELL
CORA COHEN
PAUL DEMURO
ROCHELLE FEINSTEIN
ERIK FOSS
KENJI FUJITA
SUZANNE MCCLELLAND
ANN PIBAL
NATHLIE PROVOSTY
NANCY SHAVER
CARRIE MAE WEEMS**

Works by the winners of the 2012 Art Awards are currently on display in the *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts*, and will be shown in the *Exhibition of Work by Newly Elected Members and Recipients of Honors and Awards*, which follows the Ceremonial in May. Details are below and on our website at www.artsandletters.org.

INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION
OF VISUAL ARTS

Admission Free

Thursday, March 8 to Sunday, April 15, 2012

Thursdays through Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Easter weekend (April 6-8).

On Audubon Terrace, west side of Broadway
between 155 and 156 Streets, New York City
#1 train to 157 Street and Broadway

American Academy of Arts and Letters

The American Academy of Arts and Letters was established in 1898 to “foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts.” Election to the Academy is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in this country. Founding members include William Merritt Chase, Kenyon Cox, Daniel Chester French, Childe Hassam, Henry James, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Vedder, and Woodrow Wilson. The Academy is currently comprised of 250 of America’s leading voices in the fields of Art, Architecture, Literature, and Music. The Academy presents exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts; and readings and performances of new musicals, and is located in three landmark buildings on Audubon Terrace at 155 Street and Broadway, New York City.