

PUBLIC VALUE

In October, 2007 three Easter Island artists took part in a two-week international artist exchange in Cleveland. The visiting artists included Maria Arrendondo, a headmaster of the municipal school of Easter Island as well as an artist and a printmaker; Juan Lucas (Aka) Rapu, a dance teacher, choreographer and the general coordinator for the Catholic school of the island, and Joanna Pakomio, a tri-lingual journalist from Easter Island currently living in Santiago, Chile who recorded the event and served as a translator. The exchange was a partnership between the Ohio Arts Council, Playhouse Square Foundation and Inlet Dance Theatre, a contemporary dance company in Cleveland and was supported by the Ohio Arts Foundation, Inc. and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

Children from Cleveland area schools learned about Rapa Nui (the traditional name for Easter Island and its culture) and the traditional dances of island. As part of the exchange, dancers from Inlet plan to visit Easter Island in April, 2008.

The following is an excerpt of a letter received from Inlet Dance Theatre sharing the impact the exchange had on the artists and children involved:

Our culminating event was amazing. The Rapa Nui artists and I taught three master classes in Ashtabula (OH) at Lakeside High School for elementary school aged children who participate in the Celebrate! After School Discovery program. These master classes were followed by a performance of Inlet Dance Theatre in the new beautiful Lakeside High School auditorium, a slide show presentation by Anna Maria on an enormous screen and then the Inlet dancers performing four Rapa Nui dances (in full regalia and body paint) with Aka Rapu and Joanna. The concert performance ended with an explosion of children on the stage dancing to Rapa Nui music – a truly magical event.

This exchange has been life changing for all of us involved. We're still feeling overwhelmed by the quantity/quality of information exchanged and looking very much forward to visiting the island in April.

*Bill Wade
Artistic Director/Founder
Inlet Dance Theatre*



Easter Island artists with Inlet Dance Theatre dancers



Ohio Arts Council

artsPerspective

Published by the Ohio Arts Council

This newsletter aims to keep Ohio's key decision makers informed about the work of the state's arts agency. We'd like this to be a two-way communication. If you have comments about the OAC's involvement in your district or area of expertise please send them to Stephanie Dawson at stephanie.dawson@oac.state.oh.us. Thanks for reading.

Jami Goldstein, Interim Director,
Public Information Office
Stephanie Dawson, Editor

We're Building Ohio
Through the Arts

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.

The Ohio Arts Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Visit Us on the Internet
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artsPerspective

WINTER 2007

Published by the Ohio Arts Council

2008 GOVERNOR'S AWARD WINNERS SELECTED!

Winners were chosen for the 2008 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio. Winners were selected from 69 nominations submitted by individuals and organizations throughout Ohio. Award categories and recipients include: Arts Administration, **Marcie Goodman**, Cleveland International Film Festival (Cleveland); Arts in Education, **Michael Huffman**, Lima City Schools (Lima); Arts Patron, **Susan Reams**

(Perrysburg); Business Support of the Arts, **Limited Brands** (Columbus); Community Development and Participation, **Dr. Catherine Roma**, MUSE, Cincinnati Women's Choir, Umoja Men's Chorus and Voices of Freedom Choir (Cincinnati); Individual Artists, **Dr. Burton Beerman**, Composer/Musician (Bowling Green) and **Steve Free**, Singer/Songwriter (McDermott).

NEW APPOINTEE TO BOARD — MARY LAZARUS

On November 2, 2007 Governor Strickland appointed Mary Lazarus to the Ohio Arts Council Board. Mary Lazarus, a resident of Columbus, is a co-founder and member of the board of trustees for the Women's Fund of Central Ohio. Throughout her years of community involvement, she served on the boards of trustees of Action for Children and Thurber House and as a community volunteer for the Children's Defense Fund of Ohio. Lazarus was awarded the YWCA Women of Achievement Award in 1994. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College. She will serve a five year term ending in 2012.



Mary Lazarus



Awards will be presented at a luncheon ceremony honoring winners and members of the Ohio Legislature hosted by the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation at noon on April 16, 2008 at the Columbus Athenaeum in downtown Columbus. Winners will receive an original work of art by Ohio painter Betsy DeFusco.

The 2008 Governor's Awards Committee, consisting of Ohio Arts Council Board members, included committee chair Martha MacDonell (Lima), Barbara Gould (Cincinnati), Sheila Markley-Black (Canton), Barbara Robinson (Cleveland), Susan Saxbe (Columbus), Mary Wolfe (Perrysburg) and Neal Zimmers (Dublin).

More information about the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio and Arts Day Luncheon, including a full list of past winners, is available on the Ohio Arts Council Web site at www.oac.state.oh.us/events/GovAwards.

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PUBLIC VALUE



Gretchen Stevens Cochran, *Svejk's Chess* (detail)

NEW RIFFE GALLERY EXHIBITION OPENING: CONNECTIONS II

Connections II: Ohio Artists Abroad
January 24 — April 6, 2008

Connections II features work by 14 artists who participated in the Ohio Arts Council Individual Creativity international residencies program. The OAC's International program has long been recognized as a leader in international cultural exchanges among state arts agencies. Over the years the OAC has developed global partnerships, including residencies, with a number of countries. The artists in *Connections II* took part in opportunities established in Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. These artists immersed themselves in their host communities and acted as cultural ambassadors for Ohio.

Curated by Wendy Collin Sorin of Cleveland *Connections II* features the work of artists: **Bruce E. Checefsky** (Cleveland), **Gretchen Stevens Cochran** (Columbus), **Jennifer Craun** (Cleveland), **Phyllis Kohring Fannin** (Lakewood), **Udo Haufe** (Germany), **Nicholas Hill** (Granville), **Diana Duncan Holmes** (Cincinnati), **Timothy Riordan** (Cincinnati), **Andrea Joki** (University Heights), **Michael Loderstedt** (Cleveland), **Mark Soppeland** (Akron), **Stephanie E. Sypsa** (Columbus), **Kim Vito** (Fairborn) and **Laila Voss** (Cleveland).

The exhibition opens on Thursday, January 24, 2008 with a public reception scheduled from 5-7 p.m.

COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART SELECTED FOR NEA CHALLENGE AMERICA GRANT

While state dollars comprise the large majority of the OAC annual budget, financial assistance is also received from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Every year, a small number of outstanding Arts Partnership grants given by the OAC are selected to receive support through the NEA's Challenge America program. In appreciation of the excellent educational work the Columbus Museum of Art (CMA) is doing in the community, the OAC staff has selected CMA's Arts Partnership grant as a Challenge America recipient.

Challenge America grants offer support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations providing wide access to artistic excellence, supporting local projects that can have significant effects within communities. Most projects represent a partnership between a nonprofit arts organization and other community organizations including schools, convention and visitors' bureaus, economic development agencies, or libraries.

In May, 2005 the Columbus Museum of Art acquired the Philip J. and Suzanne Schiller Collection of American Social Commentary Art, 1930-1970. These visual images often serve as a springboard for tackling issues that continue to face America today, particularly economics, war and race & ethnicity. With the Challenge America grant, the Columbus Museum of Art will continue its Art & Social Issues program, focusing on prints in Schiller Collection with a new outreach effort to reach students in communities outside central Ohio. This pilot for the 2007-08 school year will expand the reach to a greatly underserved audience, while supporting educators with an arts-integrated, interdisciplinary classroom program allowing the CMA to continue its outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Ohio.

OHIO ARTS COUNCIL RECEIVES CREATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Board of Trustees of the Alliance of Artists Communities voted unanimously to award the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) with a Creative Leadership Award. The award honors the OAC's long-standing support of individual artists and the agency's artist residency programs.

Alliance members make nominations and award recipients are selected by an Awards committee and the Board of Trustees. Alliance members are made up of a group of nearly 250 established and emerging residency programs, affiliated institutions and individuals.

The Alliance made note of the Ohio Arts Council's commitment to artists' residencies over the last two decades and its support to individual artists, organizations and opportunities worldwide. It also said the OAC's values, expressed through its Individual Creativity program in particular, reflect the core belief of artists' residencies and the Alliance; that supporting artists in the creation of new work is essential to our society's success.

The Alliance Awards ceremony was held Saturday, November 10, 2007 in Silver Springs, Maryland. OAC Executive Director Julie Henahan and OAC Board Chair Susan Saxbe were in attendance to receive the award on behalf of the Ohio Arts Council. Previous residency participant Katie Daley, a writer from Cleveland, spoke about her experience in Provincetown, Rhode Island and performed a work she created during her residency.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF THE ARTS IN NORTHWEST OHIO RELEASED

On Tuesday, October 2, 2007, the Center for Regional Development in northwest Ohio presented its Economic Impact Study of the creative industries in northwest Ohio. The report looked at a number of arts industries including writing, performing, publishing, sound recording, custom architectural woodwork, musical instrument

manufacturing, broadcasting, advertising and audio and video media production.

The report found:

- The creative industries generate \$2.4 billion annually in northwest Ohio.
- The creative industries support 33,000 jobs annually.

- The creative industries generate \$247 million in tax revenue in northwest Ohio.
- Advertising and design services generate \$276 million in northwest Ohio's economy.
- Independent artists, writers and performers create an economic impact of

\$60 million in northwest Ohio.

- Sound recording artists have an economic impact of more than \$6 million.
- Every dollar spent by arts industries creates \$1.62 for Ohio's economy.
- Every \$1 million in arts-related industries generates 22 northwest Ohio jobs.

- The Center for Regional Development conducted the study to show how crucial a thriving arts community is to the health and vitality of a region.

For more information on the Economic Impact Study, visit www.centerforregionaldevelopment.com.