

PAST ROTASA GRANT RECEIPTS

The Exhibition and Catalog Award for Contemporary Art Jewelry was created in 2004 by Rotasa Foundation to offer financial support of up to \$50,000 to institutions staging exhibitions of the work of art jewelry artists and producing related catalogs. The Foundation believes such exhibitions and catalogs will enhance the reputation and public understanding of the fields of art jewelry and related metalsmithing.

The first year of this grant was split between 2 applicants- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston received a \$30,000 grant for the exhibition and catalog called "Art as Adornment: Avant-Garde Jewelry from the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Helen Williams Drutt Collection". The University of Texas, El Paso received a \$20,000 grant for their exhibition and catalog called "Hanging in the Balance: Forty-Two Contemporary Necklaces".

In 2005, the second year of this grant was also split between 2 applicants- The Chicago Cultural Center for a catalog to document the exhibition by Kiff Slemmons called "Re: Pair and Imperfection", which opened in Chicago on March 30, 2006. The second grant was given to: the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, MA for their large retrospective of the work of Jamie Bennett called "Edge of the Sublime, the jewelry and paintings of Jamie Bennett." We hope that the scholarly approach and the ambitious goals for the Fuller Craft Museum show will set a tone for future retrospectives of studio jewelers. The foundation was also grateful for the opportunity to supply the means for documenting the thoughtful work by Kiff Slemmons at the Chicago Cultural Center in the form of a small but important catalog.

In 2006, the third year of this grant, only one institution applied whose exhibition warranted the foundation support. We chose to give a \$25,000 grant to the Bellevue Arts Museum for "Dim Sum at the On-On Tea Room- The Jewelry of Ron Ho". This retrospective and catalog with an essay by Ben Mitchell was a beautiful tribute to a Northwest jeweler at the end of his career.

In 2007 we had \$75,000 to distribute due to granting only one award in 2006. So this fund was distributed to 3 exhibitions. The first \$25,000 went to the Museum of Fine Arts Boston for the production of a catalog to accompany an exhibition “Jewelry by Artists” which features objects from the Daphne Farago collection of contemporary jewelry. This is an important collection that deserves careful scholarly consideration and a quality book to document it. The second grant of \$20,000 went to the University of Oregon to help produce a catalog for a very exciting and challenging exhibition called “The Thinking Body”. The final \$30,000 was granted to the Palo Alto Art Center for the production of a catalog to accompany the exhibition called “The Miniature World of Bruce Metcalf”. The foundation wanted to support a catalog and a point of view that would shed new light on an important artist and writer.

In 2008 the foundation awarded it’s first grant for an online catalog to the non-profit group Ethical Metalsmiths. They staged a project called “Radical Jewelry Makeover” in San Francisco with students and jewelers in the area to reuse pieces of donated jewelry and reform them. The new work was presented at Velvet da Vinci Gallery. Those pieces will be presented on their website in a catalog form. The second grant for the year was presented to the Oakland Museum for a retrospective of the work of the mid 20th century, west coast jeweler Margaret de Patta called “Margaret De Patta Exhibition”. It will be curated by Lori Fogarty from Oakland and Ursula Neuman from the Museum of Arts and Design in New York city.

The applications for the 2009 grant cycle are available at www.rotasa.org and are due on August 21th 2009. Results will be announced in September 2009.

FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

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