

Oscars of Art Education 2011



Suzanne Mitolo Takes Ohio Art Educator of Year

Guest Artists Add Sparkle to the Night



Awards night again proved to be a fun night of surprise guest presenters and honoring award winners. 2010 Ohio Art Educator of the Year Sherrie Dennis opened the evening by speaking about her experiences over the past year. With the help of Leonardo da Vinci himself, the OAEA Foundation awarded Priya Rama a scholarship to study art education at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Dennis Cannon and Dr. Karen Hutzel presented her with an apron as a token of her scholarship. Susanne Mussenden, Darren Conley and the Southern Hills Arts Council received plaques as our OAEA Service Award Winners by guest presenter Klimt Woman.

The next part of the program included fourteen Outstanding Art Educators who were presented with golden artists dolls from nine different regions. A full list of the OATs can be found on the OAEA website. I would like to see the video of Cynthia Lowry dancing on the stage like an Egyptian queen. I believe she was inspired by her presenter King Tut! We also saw Sharin Neshat, Rene Magritte, Claude Monet, Day of the Dead Calaca, Diego Rivera, and Frida Kahlo.

The next round of awards went to the Division winners. Student Division winner Erin McCourt started us out and Elementary Division winner Kelly Burichin knocked our socks off by wearing a optical illusion duct tape dress of her own design. Middle Division winner was Melissa Clark, then came Dr. Karen Hutzel from the Higher Ed. Karrie King took the Secondary Division award and Melissa Higgins-Linder was our Museum Division winner. We ended this round of awards with Sherrie Dennis being honored in the Retired Division. Thanks to our presenters Ciara Lane Collins, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas.

There were three amazing nominees for Ohio Art Educator of the Year: Monte Garrabrant, Suzanne Mitolo, and Susan Ruttle Lawrence. This was a very close race with wonderful and very accomplished art educators on the ballot. Thanks to all who voted. In the end, Bacchus raised his glass to toast our 2011 Ohio Educator of the Year Suzanne Mitolo. Suzanne currently teaches K-1 at Primary Village South in Centerville City Schools. She is a National Board Certified teacher who also studies the Reggio principles of early childhood education. She has served OAEA in many capacities and most recently as our Past President and State Conference Chair.

Congratulations to all of our 2011 award winners and a special thank you to our guest presenters. Who will be on the stage next year?



Submitted by Alice Tavani
OAEA Awards Chair