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LOCAL ARTISTS RECEIVE ADVANCED ARTIST AWARDS

WHITEHORSE – Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor has announced that 12 Yukon artists will share \$40,000 in Advanced Artist Awards to assist with their artistic development.

“We value the principles of arms-length and peer review assessment in the granting of Advanced Artist Awards to our many talented artists who seek to improve their level of artistic expression,” Taylor said. “Our artists shape our imaginations, lever social change and define who we are as Yukoners. Our government is pleased to support their development at the emerging and advanced levels.”

The Advanced Artist Award program is funded by Lotteries Yukon and is administered by the Department of Tourism and Culture. The program is assessed using the peer review process. Jury members for the Spring intake were B.J. Maclean, Joanne Jackson Johnson, Michael Reynolds and Mary Ann Annable-Roots.

One of Yukon’s artists to receive funding is Lynne Sofiak, awarded \$2,900 to attend ceramics courses at Metchosin International School of the Arts.

Sofiak said it was an honour to receive an Advanced Artist Award and the support of her peers on the jury. “I know there are many worthy submissions and it is a difficult task to select which ones will receive funding,” she said.

“I look forward to attending Metchosin Summer School of the Arts where I can exchange ideas, techniques and information with other professional potters.” Sofiak noted that often artists work in isolation and need to interact with each other to further fuel their imaginations.

For information on the Advanced Artist Awards contact the Department of Tourism and Culture, Cultural Services Branch at (867) 667-3535.

List of recipients attached

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Note to media: If you wish to contact any of the recipients directly to discuss their projects, please contact Karen Keeley.

Contact:

Peter Carr
Cabinet Communication Advisor
(867) 667-8688
peter.carr@gov.yk.ca

Karen Keeley
Communication Officer, Tourism and Culture
(867) 667-8304
karen.keeley@gov.yk.ca

Advanced Artist Award Recipients Spring 2006

	NAME	TOTAL	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1	Natalie Edelson	\$1,850	to devote 6 weeks to developing new song material
2	Andrameda Hunter	\$2,500	to attend a 10-day intensive middle eastern dance workshop
3	Gordie Tentrees	\$2,500	to write songs and record them for pre-production
4	Mario Villeneuve	\$2,500	to produce a body of work for exhibit in Sept 2006
5	Owen Williams	\$2,100	to create outdoor installations of cast ice letterform monoliths
6	Clea Ainsworth	\$2,500	to attend artist residency workshops with a master poet
7	Michael Clark	\$4,600	to attend a 4-week intensive workshop for advanced theatre artists
8	David Haddock	\$4,900	to gather interviews and recordings as background to creating new music
9	Eugene Alfred	\$4,900	to take part in the 9th International Woodcarver Symposium
10	Samantha Dickie	\$4,000	to develop a new body of ceramic sculpture
11	Lynne Sofiak	\$2,900	to attend ceramics courses at Metchosin International School of the Arts to explore form and firing techniques
12	Patricia Robertson	\$4,750	to conduct on-site research for a new novel
	Total	\$40,000	