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**FOURTEEN YUKON ARTISTS RECEIVE ADVANCED ARTIST AWARDS**

WHITEHORSE – Fourteen Yukon artists will share \$40,000 in funding to assist with their personal artistic development, announced Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor.

“Yukon government is pleased to support the development of these very talented people,” Taylor said. “This award is granted to artists who have been recognized by their peers, and who will continue to play a significant role in Yukon arts and culture.”

One of the artists to receive funding is James Kirby, a Whitehorse sculptor. Kirby, who has lived in Yukon for 28 years, currently does most of his work in stone and mammoth ivory. He recently purchased a casting foundry and plans to use his award to gain experience casting sculptures in bronze.

"Receiving this award is a wonderful surprise," Kirby said. "It's always a challenge to begin working in a new medium. This will give me the time I need to develop my skills with bronze, which offers greater freedom and flexibility than stone." Kirby's new bronze works will be exhibited in a show at the Yukon Arts Centre in 2008.

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 a peer review process.

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List of Advanced Artist Award Fall 2006 recipients attached.

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**ADVANCED ARTIST AWARD RECIPIENTS, NOVEMBER 2006**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name and Description</b>	<b>Allocated</b>
Keitha Clark	To mentor with respected Yukon fiddlers	\$2,500
Nita Collins	To advance study and professional development in Middle-Eastern dance	\$2,500
Kathleen Décosse	To record a demo CD of three original songs	\$2,500
Lisa Turner	To create an interactive multi-media installation	\$2,420
Leigha Wald	To work with a choreographer to create and perform a solo piece	\$1,000
Robert John Hilliard	To develop technique, learn to chart music, compose and record original music	\$2,500
Kate Weekes	Toward a private mentorship with songwriter Roy Forbes	\$3,500
Jesse Mitchell	To create large-scale drawings on paper exploring automatic drawing techniques	\$1,030
Chris Scherbarth	To create a new body of work exploring how music composition choreographs the player	\$2,500
James Kirby	To explore new mediums in sculpture bronze casting and larger format sculpture	\$5,000
Valerie Salez	To produce video, animation and projection works for a collaborative piece with Ivan E. Coyote and Rae Spoon	\$2,050
Claire Eamer	To prepare submission-ready drafts of two novels for children	\$2,500
Mitch Miyagawa	To create a collection of non-fiction stories about contemporary Yukon	\$5,000
Al Pope	To research and begin writing a new novel set in 1942, during Alaska Hwy. construction	\$5,000

**TOTAL: \$40,000**