



Gardiner Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gardiner Museum Receives the Ray Blackwell Award for Excellence in Art Education

September 20, 2007, Toronto, ON - The Gardiner Museum is the proud recipient of the 2006 Ray Blackwell Award for Excellence in Art Education. The award is the highest recognition of outstanding contribution to visual arts education given by Ontario Society of Education Through Art (OSEA). The Gardiner is especially honoured to receive the award because this is the first time it has presented it to an institution rather than an individual.

The Museum's Education department was started in 1984. Today the department, which consists of two full-time employees, Education Director Diane Wolfe and Education Assistant Siobhan Boyd, coordinates a year-round roster of lectures, films, family days, hands-on clay classes and school programs. Annually the department brings over 15,000 students to the Museum, introducing them to ceramic art. Diane Wolfe, Director of Education at the Museum remarked, "It is wonderful to know that our school program, offering direct hands-on work with clay, taught by professional ceramic artists and inspired by our exhibitions and collections, has been well received by Ontario's teachers and students. We are participating in a shared endeavor and nothing means more than recognition from our colleagues."

This award is unique because the winner receives an original print, specially commissioned by the OSEA executive. The executive commissions an artist to create a new edition of prints for every decade of the award. Toronto artist Barbara Klunder produced the first set of prints and artist Vicki Cowan has created the second and current edition. Past recipients of the Blackwell Award

include Prof. John Emerson, Dr. Roger Clark, Dr. Annie Smith, John Botterell, Jon Mergler, Dan Tomlinson, Wayne Rose, Julie Stone, Bob Phillips, Mario Gasparotto, Susan Brown, Heather Miller, Dr. Lynette Fast and Terry Reeves.

Ray Blackwell was an OSEA member, President from 1963 to 1964 and Honorary President from 1980 to 1981. He also wrote the first and definitive history of OSEA which was published in 1991. Following his death in 1994, the OSEA was approached by his daughter, Barbara Blackwell, with a vision of inaugurating an award to honour her father's accomplishments. Today, the award is funded in perpetuity through a gift made by Barbara Blackwell.

The Ontario Society of Education Through Art is a non-profit organization that actively promotes and advocates learning through the visual arts. OSEA is a recognized affiliate of the Ontario Teachers Federation and maintains ties with the Canadian Society for Education Through Art (CSEA), the International Society for Education through Art (INSEA) and the Arts Education Council of Ontario (AECO). OSEA functions in an advisory role with the Ministry of Education and Training, faculties of education and other government agencies.

ABOUT GARDINER MUSEUM

The Gardiner Museum offers an intimate look at one of the world's oldest and most universal forms of art and material culture—ceramics. The collection spans continents and time, giving a glimpse into the development of ceramic process, decoration and form. Year-round the Museum mounts special exhibitions, programs, lectures and clay classes to complement its permanent collection. The Museum also features a destination restaurant with Jamie Kennedy as its executive chef, and a gift shop specializing in artist designed, artist made merchandise.

The Museum is open Monday to Thursday 10 am to 6 pm, Friday 10 am to 9 pm and Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free every Friday from 4 pm to 9 pm.

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