

Published January 16th, 2013

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Honored with Arts Recognition Award

Submitted by Dyana Bhandari



Photo Andy Scheck

The Saint Mary's College Museum of Art was one of three honored with a 2012 Arts Recognition Award by the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (AC5) and the County Board of Supervisors yesterday at the County Administration Building in Martinez. For the past 17 years the Arts Recognition Award has honored artists and arts organizations that have made significant contributions to the arts and culture of Contra Costa County over a sustained period of time.

"Saint Mary's College Museum of Art is a jewel in both Contra Costa County and the Bay Area for the vision, leadership, commitment and creativity in bringing visual culture to both the college and larger communities," said Darwin Marable, AC5 chair. "The Arts and Culture Commission and the Board of Supervisors are honored to recognize the Museum's many contributions to our community."

Museum director Carrie Brewster said she was thrilled by the latest honor for the institution.

"As a museum that has been accredited by the America Alliance of Museums for more than 25 years, we take pride in bringing a world of art to Saint Mary's College and the surrounding communities," said Brewster.

Brewster added that "the expansion of our exhibit space by 50 per cent in 2011 enables the Saint Mary's Museum of Art to present four exhibitions at once, offering with an even more diverse range of the visual arts to our region."

According to Marable, AC5, in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors, has granted 78 annual awards since 1996 to artists, art educators, arts organizations and many others who have made significant contributions to the arts.

"The Saint Mary's Art Museum was honored for its permanent collection, including its William Keith Collection, and noteworthy one-person exhibitions which bring local, national and international known artist to Moraga and Contra Costa County," Marable said.

The two other recipients were Michele Seville, arts and culture manager for the City of Richmond and Hershell West, artist, muralist and community organization leader. The Board of Supervisors presented a resolution honoring these county leaders at yesterday's event. Each honoree received a commemorative glass sculpture created by artist Randy Strong of the R. Strong Glass studio in Berkeley.

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