



For Immediate Release

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***Cranbrook Academy of Art  
Announces 2008 Awards for Excellence in the Arts***

Bloomfield Hills, MI – Cranbrook Academy of Art celebrated another year of outstanding work by its faculty and graduate students at the Academy Awards ceremony on Thursday night. The recipients of six distinguished awards for artistic excellence and Merit Scholarships were announced at the Cranbrook Art Museum in an event that also recognized the accomplishments of retiring faculty members Tony Hepburn and Carl Toth. Cranbrook Academy of Art was recently named the country's top graduate-only Masters of Fine Arts program by *US News and World Report* in the 2009 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools."

"We are a small school with a unique program, but Cranbrook remains a driving force in contemporary art, architecture, and design due to the accomplishments of our students, graduates and faculty," says Reed Kroloff, Director of Cranbrook Academy of Art. "The awards granted this year recognize -- through important support of donors and corporate support -- our exceptional program and students."

***The 2008 Daimler Financial Services Emerging Artist Award***, which recognizes artistic promise with a grant to study and exhibit in the Berlin, Germany during the month of October, was awarded to Annica Cuppetelli, a Master of Fine Arts candidate in the Fiber Department and a resident of Royal Oak, Michigan. The Daimler Emerging Artist Award is being presented this year for the fourth time, and is a result of the long partnership between Daimler Financial Services and Cranbrook Academy of Art. The award is presented annually in recognition of a particularly innovative work presented during the Graduate Degree exhibition at Cranbrook Art Museum,

which is the thesis show mounted by MFA graduate-candidates of the Academy. The Daimler award allows talented young artists the opportunity to enter into dialogue with fellow artists in Europe and thus further develop their creative capacity during a month-long residency at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin.

***The Tony Devan Lewis Fellowship*** was awarded to David Duncan Hendren, a Master of Fine Arts candidate in the Painting Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art and a native of Arkansas. This award was created by the philanthropist, art collector, author and curator Toby Devan Lewis, who has been a constant supporter of young and emerging artists. She recently created the Toby Fund, to give graduating Master of Fine Arts students at more than 15 schools of art around the country grants of \$10,000 each. As a former curator of the Progressive Collection, Lewis has been known for finding and nurturing young and unknown artists.

***The Robert Larson Art, Design and Architecture Venture Fund*** was awarded to Aaron Peterman, a Master of Fine Arts candidate in the Sculpture Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art and a resident of Bloomfield Hills. The award recognizes and supports the work of an innovative and inspired Academy graduate student. Peterman's work features wallpaper, floor and ceiling treatments accompanied by sculptural elements to create dimensional environments. The award was established by Bonnie Larson to celebrate her husband Robert's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Robert C. Larson is a long-time volunteer leader and donor at Cranbrook who has served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees from 1996-2002. Her was also a member of the Board of Governors of the Academy and Art Museum from 1986-2000.

***The 2008 Cranbrook Art Museum Purchase Award*** was presented to David Lambert, a Master of Fine Arts candidate in the Photography Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art and a resident of Troy, Michigan. Lambert's work, currently on display in the Graduate Degree Exhibition at Cranbrook Art Museum, was selected for purchase by the Museum's governing board and will be accessioned into the permanent collection of Cranbrook Art Museum. The work includes a series of photographs and objects about the current state of the environment.

Also during the ceremonies it was announced that **Kimberly Faler**, a Master of Fine Arts candidate in the Sculpture Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art and resident of Amherst, Massachusetts, has been awarded the prestigious grant from the **Joan Mitchell Foundation**. Faler was one of only 20 contemporary painters and sculptors to receive the \$25,000 award, which is granted annually through nominators in the arts community selected from across the country. Faler was also the recipient this year of the **Fulbright Grant**. The Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship program in international educational exchange, was proposed to the

U.S. Congress in 1945. Chosen for academic merit and leadership potential, the Fulbright will allow Faler to continue her study in Brazil during the 2008-2009.

The celebrated Artist-in-Residence and Head of the Ceramics Department **Tony Hepburn** is retiring after 16 years at Cranbrook Academy of Art. Hepburn is an internationally recognized artist who has received many awards for his work including: The Distinguished Koopman Fine Arts Chair from Hartford University, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Friends of Contemporary Ceramics, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, two New York Council on the Arts Fellowships, and the Gold Medal at the Faenza Ceramics Biennale, Faenza, Italy. His work is in many private collections around the world. Including the: Victoria and Albert Museum, London and The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. Hepburn was educated at the Camberwell College of Art and London University. Prior to coming to Cranbrook, Hepburn was Professor of Ceramics and Head of the Division of Art and Design at the New York College of Ceramics at Alfred University.

**Carl Toth**, Artist-in-Residence and Head of the Photography Department, is retiring after more than 30 years at the Academy. In 2006, Toth was named Educator of the Year by the Society of Photographic Education. Toth joined the Academy in 1992 and was instrumental in the education of more than 300 graduates of the Photography Department. His work can be found in the permanent collections of many museums both here and abroad including the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

#### Cranbrook Academy of Art

Founded in 1932, Cranbrook Academy of Art is a preeminent graduate school of art, design and architecture. The Academy is the only institution in the United States dedicated solely to graduate art education, granting the Master of Architecture degree and the Master of Fine Arts degree in 2D Design, 3D Design, Ceramics, Fiber, Metalsmithing, Painting, Photography, Print Media and Sculpture. Carl Milles, Harry Bertoia, Charles and Ray Eames, Maija Grotell, Eero Saarinen, Florence Knoll, Daniel Libeskind and numerous other Cranbrook artists have had a major impact on the art, design, and architecture of our time. Further information is available on the Internet at: [www.cranbrookart.edu](http://www.cranbrookart.edu)