

CLEVELAND

arts prize

winter
08

Arts Prize Alive!

**Some Things Old,
Some Things New,
Some Things Borrowed,
And Maybe Some Blues!**

Concert by Howie Smith
1985 Arts Prize Winner and
Rock Wehrmann

Sunday, February 24
6:00 pm

NIGHTTOWN
Hosted by **Brendan Ring**
2007 Arts Prize Winner

- SUPPORTER:** \$100
dinner, cash bar, concert
(\$70 tax deductible)
- ENTHUSIAST:** \$150
cocktails with Howie, preferred
seating, dinner, concert
(\$100 tax deductible)
- UNDERWRITER:** \$500,
all of the above with extra
special treatment and undying
gratitude (\$450 tax deductible)
- DONATION:** Can't attend but
will be happy to support CAP
\$ _____
(100% tax deductible)

Valet parking at the door
Free parking in the lot

Purchase tickets at
www.ClevelandArtsPrize.org
or mail check to:

Cleveland Arts Prize
PO Box 21126
Cleveland, Ohio 44121

DON' T DELAY. SEATING IS LIMITED.



Lewis



Ring

Coble

Channing

Schoral

THE 2007 WINNERS

The 2007 Arts Prize ceremony was held in June. Arts Prize winners Christopher Pekoc, Lewis Nielson, Norman Krumholz and Cindy Barber were featured in our previous newsletter. In this newsletter, we profile the remaining winners.

Toby Devan Lewis was responsible for collecting artworks for Progressive Insurance's headquarters from 1985 to 2005. Numbering more than 6,300 works, it is one of the country's largest and top-rated corporate contemporary art collections. Toby has also overseen the creation of Progressive's annual reports, which, every year since 1979, the company has commissioned an artist to design, winning more than 500 awards. Toby, who serves on the boards of many arts and other non-profit organizations around the country, has won national and regional awards herself. Her book, *Artworks: The Progressive Collection*, including 285 photos of works from the collection, along with essays by Toby, Toni Morrison, Dan Cameron and Peter B. Lewis, was recently published.

Native Dubliner **Brendan Ring** took over the venerable restaurant Nighttown in 2001, and added live music, taking a huge risk in booking the top names in jazz and other genres. He kept the atmosphere casual and friendly, the room intimate and homey, and the prices as low as possible. The original restaurant has flourished and expanded. The neighborhood has improved as a result of

Nighttown's stability and its semi-outdoor addition. Now Nighttown is nationally recognized as one of the best spots to hear live jazz music, designated as one of *Downbeat* magazine's International Jazz Guide's 100 Great Jazz Clubs.

Susan Channing served as director of SPACES for 21 years. During an era when most similar alternative galleries were closing, SPACES not only endured, but it thrived. Through a balance of strong management skills, innovative programming ideas and fiscal responsibility, SPACES maintained its mission as an artist-run alternative gallery, and grew from its small original space to a nationally respected gallery in its own building, attracting around 20,000 visitors a year. Focusing on young, emerging, developing and experimental artists, SPACES has provided opportunities to more than 7,500 artists in the visual and performing arts to present their works and impart ideas.

Eric Coble came to Cleveland in the early 1990s for an acting internship

at the Cleveland Play House, and then became an actor/teacher at Great Lakes Theater Festival. For several years, he has been a member of the Playwrights' Unit of the Play House's New Play Development Program. His play *Bright Ideas* received the National Theater Conference Playwriting Award, was produced Off-Broadway in 2002 and has since gone on to many productions around the country. And that's just one of his works. In fewer than 15 years, Eric has had about 40 plays produced in theaters all over the country and has won numerous awards with them.

Thomas Schorgl came to Cleveland in 1997 to be the founding president and CEO of the Community Partnership for Arts & Culture, an organization created to work with the area's public, private and arts and cultural sectors to develop and implement a regional arts and cultural strategy. He helped build bridges between the arts groups themselves, and then between arts, civic, business and political leaders. Among his many great achievements here has been helping to change zoning laws and enable the creation of spaces in which artists can live and work; and the passage of Issue 18, a countywide tax that will produce approximately \$20 million in support for arts and cultural organizations.

OUR NEW CO-PRESIDENTS

The co-presidents of the Cleveland Arts Prize Board of Trustees for 2008 are **Paul Westlake**, CAP '95 and **Barbara Robinson**, CAP '01. Paul served as co-president last year with Kathy Coakley Barrie. Joining Paul this year is Barbara Robinson.

An architect, **Paul Westlake Jr.**, serves as Managing Principal and Lead Designer in the firm Westlake Reed Leskosky, with offices in Cleveland, Phoenix and Washington, DC

The recipient of more than 100 design awards, Paul's commissions for cultural arts facilities include work on two of the three largest performing arts centers in the U.S. (Cleveland's Playhouse Square and the Denver Arts Center), and other major theaters and museums; more than 200 National Register Landmarks, including work at the Grand Canyon (a World Heritage Site) and the Metzenbaum Courthouse and Federal Building; and work for the Cleveland Clinic and Mayo Clinic.

Barbara Robinson served an unprecedented four terms as Chair of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, a record 13 years as Chair of the Ohio Arts Council and she is in her 11th year as Chair of Arts Midwest. Her accomplishments are far too extensive for us to do more than scratch the surface here, but she serves or has served on the boards or advisory councils of dozens of local, regional and national arts organizations, including her recently completed five-year term as Chairman of the Board of the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has also been the recipient of dozens of awards and honors. An accomplished pianist as well, Barbara has performed as a soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra and other orchestras.

YOU CAN LOOK IT UP

Every one of the nearly 250 Cleveland Arts Prize winners is listed in the Archives section of our website. And more than half of the names are accompanied by bios. Reading the bios paints a fascinating picture of this region's rich cultural history since the early 1960s. Just reading the amazing list of names can spark your imagination.

A project, funded by the John P. Murphy Foundation, is underway to complete the bios. If you look at the archives and see that there is someone for whom there is no bio, but about whom you happen to have some interesting (and, of course, appropriate) information, feel free to let us know – via the website or mail – and we will contact you.

WE'RE TAKING NAMES

You still have time to send in nominations for this year's Arts Prizes. But time is running out: The deadline is February 29. Maybe you know of an emerging or established visual artist, composer, choreographer, writer, designer or other artist with whom we're not yet familiar: or even someone who's so blatantly obvious that you'd think we couldn't possibly have overlooked him or her. Don't assume anything – nominate them.

You can nominate artists from this region who have made significant contributions in the fields of Design, Music & Dance, Visual Arts, and Literature. The categories in which to nominate them are described in detail on the website. Each nominee is reviewed and voted on by a jury of his or her peers. The jurors are also listed on the website.

There are also the two special prizes – the Robert P. Bergman and Martha Joseph Prizes – which are awarded to recognize individuals who have shown leadership and support for the arts.

And this year, making nominations is easier to do than ever: You can make nominations on-line, any time of day or night, every day of the year. Visit our website, www.clevelandartsprize.org. Or you can still send your nominations to us in the mail, if you feel more comfortable doing it that way, at Cleveland Arts Prize, P.O. Box 21126, Cleveland, OH 44121.

The 2008 Cleveland Arts Prize Awards Ceremony will take place at the Cleveland Play House on Thursday, June 26.



Cleveland Arts Prize
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Cleveland, OH 44121
www.ClevelandArtsPrize.org

artsPRIZE
CLEVELAND

THE JOY OF SAX

How many musicians have performed with both Elvis Presley and the Cleveland Orchestra? Only one, that we know of: jazz saxophonist Howie Smith. The 1985 Arts Prize winner, professor of music at Cleveland State University and the director of CSU's Sundown Jazz Series, will perform in a very special Cleveland Art Prize fund-raiser on Sunday, February 24, at Nighttown in Cleveland Heights. Smith has performed concerts and workshops all over the world, and has performed and/or recorded with other music legends, including John Cage and Dizzy Gillespie. Reserve your tickets for this special concert now. Seating is very limited. See reverse side for details.