



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: Cathy Welborn, Program Coordinator
(804) 225-3132 * catherine.welborn@arts.virginia.gov

Virginia Commission for the Arts Awards \$25,000 in Fellowships

RICHMOND, VA - The Virginia Commission for the Arts is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2012-2013 Artists Fellowships. Fellowships are awarded annually to artists residing in Virginia in recognition of creative excellence and to support their pursuit of artistic excellence. This year, five Virginia artists have been honored in the field of painting. The awarded artists will each receive fellowships of \$5,000.

Fellowships in painting were awarded to:

Jonathan Aumen, (Norfolk, VA)



Jonathan was born in 1980 in Fairfax, Virginia. He grew up in Beijing, China a small stowaway riding on the scales of the mammoth dragon. Each day was full of countless

new sensory impressions and experiences. He had an insatiable hunger to learn and explore the culture. Doubtlessly he is who he is because of this unique experience of being a cultural migrant. After receiving his B.A. in Studio Art from Bob Jones University in 2002, he continued to create art while learning such trades as tomb stone engraving, tropical plant care and custom framing. Curiosity has always defined him. He just returned from a six-month residency in Kunming, China where his final solo exhibition was titled “The Cell’s Longing.” This body of work touched on the relationship between the cell and the city and addressed such themes such as life, death, purpose and longing. Jonathan says “Everything in the universe is immersed in mystery. We see through a veil into something much larger than ourselves, something eternal. It’s the eternality, the beauty of the order, and the mystery, that keeps me in a state of wonder and longing. Art was and still is a way for me to ponder things that fill me with wonder...” Currently residing in Norfolk, Virginia Jonathan and his lovely wife Sharon are expecting their first child (a boy) Christmas day. He is currently working on a body of work exploring the connection between the micro and macro world. He will also be participating in the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art’s *New Wave Show* 2013 in January.

Amy Chan, (Richmond, VA)
Granite Reef
gouache and acrylic on paper
15" x 22"
2012



Amy Chan paints landscapes that have been touched by “global weirding”. Inspired by science fiction, outer space and decorative pattern, she manipulates nature into asteroid-like worlds that float in an atmospheric space. Her work draws inspiration from the ecosystems of the East Coast

where she lives, and the places she discovers through travel. She has been Artist-in-Residence at Onoma Fiskars in Finland, the Jentel Foundation in Wyoming and Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Amy Chan lives in Richmond, and teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Virginia.

Stephen L. Griffin, (Colonial Beach, VA)



Steve Griffin has been an active painter for over forty-five years. In 1968 he was one of twelve undergraduate students chosen from a national pool to attend the first year of the new Independent Study Program at the Whitney Museum in New York City. The ISP is still active today. Since retiring from teaching in the Art Department at the University of Mary Washington in 2008, Steve has continued to work in his studio in Colonial Beach, Va. He recently received a 2011-2012 professional fellowship in painting from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a residency fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Amherst, VA. Griffin's work hangs in many private and corporate collections and has been included in over 175 exhibitions. His work is represented by several galleries including the Glave Kocen Gallery in Richmond and the Long View Gallery in Washington, DC.

Richard Roth, (Oilville, VA)

Under the Influence

acrylic on birch plywood panel

12" x 8" x 4"

2012



Richard Roth has exhibited nationally and internationally. Exhibitions include Tomlinson Kong Contemporary, and McKenzie Fine Art, both New York; Devening Projects + Editions, Chicago; David Richard Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM; Galerie Rob de Vries, The Netherlands; Highland Institute of Contemporary Art, Scotland; Rocket Gallery, London; ParisCONCRET, France; The Suburban, Oak Park, IL; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and Reynolds Gallery, Richmond; UCR/California Museum of Photography; the Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan; Feigen, Inc., Chicago; the Whitney Museum of American Art; and Castelli Warehouse, New York. He was the recipient of a Visual Artists Fellowship in Painting from the National Endowment for the Arts (1991), an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artists Fellowship, and a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship in Painting. He received an MFA from the Tyler School of Art and a BFA from The Cooper Union. He is co-editor of the book, *Beauty is Nowhere: Ethical Issues in Art and Design* and co-author of *Color Basics* and *Design Basics 3D*. He taught at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; the University of California, Berkeley; New York University; and Ohio State University. He was the Director of Solvent Space, an experimental exhibition space in Richmond, Virginia, 2005 – 2009, and is currently a professor in the Painting and Printmaking Department at Virginia Commonwealth University where he was Department Chair from 1999 – 2008.

Blade Wynne, (Chesapeake, VA)



Blade Wynne was born in 1980, in Providence, Rhode Island. He attended Pratt Institute and was awarded his BFA in painting in 2002. During his time at Pratt Institute he received a travel grant to study drawing and painting abroad in Tuscany in 2001. He received his MFA in painting from Rhode Island School of Design in 2008 where he received the "Award of Excellence". His work has been exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Providence, Philadelphia and Chicago. His most recent exhibitions of work include a solo show at Vox Populi in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a two person show at Tompkins Projects in Brooklyn, New York, as well as a solo show at The Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art in Virginia Beach. His work has recently appeared in publications such as "Journal of the Print World" and "New American Paintings." He lives and works in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts supports the arts through funding from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Commission distributes grant awards to artists, arts and other not-for-profit organizations, educational institutions, educators and local governments and provides technical assistance in arts management.

For additional information and to download applications, go to www.arts.virginia.gov or contact the Virginia Commission for the Arts, 1001 East Broad Street, Suite 330, Richmond, VA 23219; Phone: 804/225-3132; email: arts@arts.virginia.gov

###