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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Virginia Commission for the Arts
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**VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
AWARDS \$45,000 TO VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPHERS AND WRITERS**

RICHMOND, VA - The Virginia Commission for the Arts is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2006-2007 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, nine Virginia artists have been honored in the fields of photography and fiction. The awarded artists will each receive fellowships of \$5,000.

Fellowships in fiction were awarded to:

Rebecca Brock of Leesburg. M.F.A. in Writing and Literature, Bennington College, VT; B.A. in Literature and Writing (*magna cum laude*), Whitworth College, WA. Published story in *The Threepenny Review*, Winter 2005. Signed with PFD New York in 2005. MacDowell Colony Fellow, 2005.

Amanda Cockrell of Roanoke. M.A., English and Creative Writing, Hollins College; B.A., Russian Studies, Hollins College. Founding director of the graduate program, Study and Writing of Children's and Adolescent Literature at Hollins University. Currently an adjunct professor of fiction writing for adults and children at Hollins University. Managing editor of *The Hollins Critic* at Hollins University. Publications include 5 novels: *Pomegranate Seed*, Tryon, 2001; *The Horse Catchers*, Avon 2001; *The Deer Dancers*, Avon, 1995; *The Moonshine Blade*, Bantam, 1988; and *The Legions of the Mist*, Atheneum, 1979. Fellowship recipient, National Endowment for the Arts, 1998.

Ryan Effgen of Arlington. M.F.A. in Creative Writing, George Mason University, VA; B.A. in English, University of Iowa, IA. Currently editor-in-chief at *Phoebe*. Literary publications include: *Best New American Voices*, 2007; *Painted Bride Quarterly*; *Folio*, 2006, and *Reed Magazine*, 2006. Received 3rd Prize in the *Zoetrope: All Story* 2005 Short Fiction Contest and was a Finalist at the 2006 *Glimmer Train* Short Story Award for New Writers.

Lamar Giles of Chesapeake. B.S. in Communications with a Minor in English, Old Dominion University, VA. Publications include: *The Track*, *Dark Dreams*, Dafina Books, Kensington Publishing Corp, 2004; *NecRomance*, 1-5, www.awarenessmagazine.net, 2005; *Wilson's Pawn & Loan*, *Voices from the Other Side*, Dafina Books, Kensington Publishing Corp., 2007.

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Nick Taylor of Williamsburg. M.F.A. in Creative Writing, University of Virginia; B.A. in English, University of Virginia. He recently received a Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Residency Fellowship. Publications include: *The Smell of Despair, Politically Inspired*, Stephen Elliot, ed. MacAdam/Cage, 2003 and *52 East Lawn and Other Stories*, University of Virginia, May 2005.

Fellowships were awarded in photography to:

Colette Fu of Roanoke. M.F.A. in Photography, Rochester Institute of Technology, NY; B.A. in Photography, Virginia Commonwealth University; B.A. in French Language and Literature, University of Virginia. She has received various awards including a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship in 2004. Her work has recently been exhibited in Los Angeles for the 2006 Public Art Project; at the Philadelphia City Hall, PA; Highwire Gallery, PA, and Butler Institute of Art, OH, among others.

Thurston Howes of Richmond. M.F.A. in Photography, Virginia Commonwealth University; B.S. in Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He has taught photography for over 20 years at Virginia Commonwealth University. His works have been most recently exhibited at Gallery 5 in Richmond. Past exhibitions included the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, VA, Anderson Gallery, VA, South Eastern Center for Contemporary Arts, NC, Pittsburg Art Center, PA, and Cornell University, NY, among others.

Holly Morrison of Richmond. M.F.A. in Printmaking, Cranbrook Academy of Art, MI; B.F.A. in Painting and Printmaking, Kansas City Art Institute, MO. She is currently associate professor of Painting and Printmaking at the Virginia Commonwealth University. Most recently she has exhibited at the San Francisco Center for the Book, CA; Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts, IL; College of Wooster Art Museum, OH; Alkron Art Museum, OH; and the Corcoran Museum of Art, among others. Her work can be seen in museum collections around the United States. She has received numerous awards including an Individual Artist Grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Paul Thulin of Richmond. M.F.A. in Photography and Film, Virginia Commonwealth University; BA in Philosophy and Religious Studies (*summa cum laude*), Virginia Commonwealth University. He is currently an adjunct assistant professor at VCU. His work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions at Park School Gallery, Ithaca College, NY; Photography Institute at Columbia University, NY; and James Madison University, VA, among others.

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Artist Fellowships are offered on a rotating basis to Virginia artists in the following disciplines: crafts, photography, sculpture, fiction, music composition, choreography, painting, works on paper (prints and drawing), poetry, playwriting, and filmmaking depending upon the amount of state and federal funding available to the Commission.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts is the state agency that 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 information about the Virginia Commission for the Arts or its programs or resources, contact: The Virginia Commission for the Arts, 223 Governor Street (Lewis House), Richmond, VA 23219; 804-225-3132; or visit our website at www.arts.virginia.gov

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