

Web content for MERA Award of Excellence

Recipient of the MERA Award for Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts

Tom Shoebridge, Chair of the Board of McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts (MERA), the community arts organization based in McDonald's Corner's, Ontario has announced that Ellen Good is the first person to receive the MERA Award for Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts for her Shibori dye technique handwoven shawl. Ms Good, a resident of Ompah, Ontario was chosen to represent the Frontenac area at the Eastern Ontario Artists Marketplace at the 2009 Spring One of a Kind Show in Toronto. Two other noted local artisans received honourable mention: Susie Osler for her ceramic work "Tulip Vase" and Franc van Oort for his Etching "Beaverdam".

Nominated works were assessed and the award winning works were selected by an independent three member committee comprised of Reva Dolgoy, a noted community arts organizer and art teacher and a founding member of the Arts Council of Almonte, Ontario, Ellen Fraser, a jeweller practising her craft from a studio in Perth, Ontario and owner of Cornerstone Fine Arts/ Fine Crafts in Kingston, Ontario and Victoria Henry, the Director of the Canada Council's Art Bank in Ottawa, who chaired the Committee.

The committee members were chosen to ensure that the committee would have solid expertise in both the field of fine arts and fine crafts and that all nominated works would be assessed in the national, regional and local contexts. "Ellen Good's work displayed a particularly fine grasp of the difficult Shibori dye weaving technique" commented Ms Henry at the conclusion of the assessment process. "It is always a pleasure to be introduced to the work of artists and crafts people who show such a high degree of commitment to the development of their art."

The MERA Award, consisting of a \$1000 prize, was presented to Ms Good at the Schoolhouse in McDonald's Corners.

The MERA Award, which will be conferred every one to two years, was conceived and made possible by a generous donation by Lanark Highlands' residents Chris and David Dodge to the Perth and District Community Foundation, which will manage the funds. The Foundation also made a significant contribution to the amount of the prize.

Anyone interested in learning more about the MERA Award are invited to visit MERA's website: www.meraschoolhouse.org, send an email to meraschoolhouse@bell.net or leave a telephone message at 613- 278-0388.



Ellen Good