



Smithsonian  
***Donald W. Reynolds Center for  
American Art and Portraiture***  
***Smithsonian American Art Museum***

News

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**Media only:** Laura Baptiste (202) 275-1595

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**Smithsonian American Art Museum Announces 2006 Nominees  
for Its Lucelia Artist Award**

The Smithsonian American Art Museum announced today (Feb. 1) the nominees for the museum's 2006 Lucelia Artist Award. Nominated artists show a sustained commitment to distinctive work that challenges conventional thinking and expectations about the nature of art. This award is part of the museum's continued commitment to contemporary art and artists through awards and acquisitions.

The 14 artists nominated for the award this year are Laylah Ali, Janine Antoni, The Center for Land Use Interpretation (Matthew Coolidge), Spencer Finch, Tom Friedman, Maureen Gallace, Ellen Gallagher, Jon Kessler, Byron Kim, Glenn Ligon, Julie Mehretu, Tony Oursler, Raymond Pettibon and Catherine Sullivan. Nominated artists work in a diverse range of media including architecture, film, installation, land use planning, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture and video.

"The Smithsonian American Art Museum recognizes the vital contributions being made by these artists to the contemporary art conversations taking place today," said Elizabeth Broun, the museum's Margaret and Terry Stent Director.

The Lucelia Artist Award, established in 2001, annually recognizes an American artist under the age of 50 who has produced a significant body of work and consistently demonstrates exceptional creativity. Jurors nominate artists who will be recognized as one of the most important and influential artists of his or her time. The \$25,000 award is intended to encourage the artist's future development and experimentation. Previous winners were Andrea Zittel (2005), Kara Walker (2004), Rirkrit Tiravanija (2003), Liz Larner (2002) and Jorge Pardo (2001). Applications are not accepted for this award.

Sidra Stich, executive director for the Lucelia Artist Award, coordinates the jury panel selection, and the nomination and jurying process. Five distinguished jurors, each with a wide

knowledge of contemporary American art, were selected from across the United States. The panel nominated the artists and will determine the award winner in a day of discussion and review, remaining anonymous until the winner is announced in April 2006. Past jurors have included John Baldessari, Klaus Biesenbach, Lynne Cooke, Richard Flood, Gary Garrels, Elizabeth Murray, Jerry Saltz and Robert Storr.

The New York-based Lucelia Foundation, which funds the award, supports the visual arts, specifically 19th-century American and contemporary art.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum collection began with gifts of art donated to the federal government in 1829 and has evolved into one of the world's most important American art holdings, with approximately 41,000 artworks in all media spanning more than three centuries. The museum's National Historic Landmark building, currently under renovation, is located at Eighth and F streets N.W. in the heart of a revitalized downtown arts district, above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station (Red, Yellow and Green lines). When the building opens July 1, it will be a dazzling showcase for American art and portraiture that celebrates the vision and creativity of Americans. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 357-1729 (TTY). Recorded information: (202) 275-1500. Web sites: [www.americanart.si.edu](http://www.americanart.si.edu) or [www.reynoldscenter.org](http://www.reynoldscenter.org).

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