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Anonymous Was A Woman Award

Ten Distinguished Artists Recognized for their Body of Work

Anonymous Was A Woman announced today the ten artists selected to receive the Foundation's annual \$25,000 awards. The recipients are women over 40 years of age -- between 42 and 80 -- who have significantly contributed to their fields, while continuing to grow and pursue their work. The grant supports and sustains the creative voice of the mature female artist, an often under-represented demographic. Now celebrating its 20th year, the program has made some 200 awards totaling over \$5 million.

2015 Award Winners

Donna Dennis
Wendy Ewald
Simone Forti
Rachel Harrison
Pam Lins
Jennifer Montgomery
Dona Nelson
Lisa Sanditz
Lisa Sigal
Julianne Swartz

Recipients will receive a “no strings” grant of \$25,000, providing them the freedom to continue developing their creative vision. Images and information about each artist can be found at: <http://www.anonymouswasawoman.org/home-2015.html>

This year's winners include artists working in painting, sculpture, installation, video, photography and performance art. Six of this year's winners are from New York. The others reside in California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Each year, an outstanding group of distinguished women – art historians, curators, writers and previous winners – serve anonymously as nominators and panelists for the award. A complete list of past recipients can be found at <http://www.anonymouswasawoman.org/past-award-winners.html>. After 20 years, the donor to the program still remains anonymous.



Lauren Shenfield, director of the program, explained, *“Anonymous Was A Woman Awards provide important recognition in artists’ personal and artistic development. The financial gift helps artists buy time, space, materials, and equipment, often at early stages of a new project, as well as important emotional support. Perhaps most important, the Award offers an opportunity for women artists of inordinate talent and accomplishment to achieve greater recognition.”*

The name of the grant program, **Anonymous Was A Woman**, refers to a line in Virginia Woolf’s *A Room of One’s Own*. As the name implies, the nominators and those associated with the program are unnamed. The only requirement of the Award is that recipients inform the program how the gift affected their life or work.

“The money makes its way handily into more supplies, more assistance, probably more work,” wrote Jane Hammond a former winner. “But, more importantly, I feel it makes its way into an expanded state of mind--more forward leaning, expansive and bold.” Anticipating the impact of the Award on her life and work, a new winner summed up her feelings on hearing the news: *“I feel less anonymous now,”* she said.

Anonymous Was A Woman, a program of FJC-A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds, is administered by Philanthropy Advisors, LLC, a comprehensive consulting and management organization for private philanthropy.

For more information please visit www.anonymouswasawoman.org.

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