



# Northern Arts News

## A Publication of the Region 2 Arts Council

### **R2AC Launches New Website**

*By Katie Carter*

While contemplating my move to Bemidji five years ago, it was the access to art in this area that sealed the deal for me.

Three years later, I applied for an internship at the Region 2 Arts Council. Prior to my interview, I engaged in the standard 21st century research of surfing the Internet to mine information. At that time, the R2AC website was dauntingly standard: gray on gray tones with the occasional blue logo, links to pdf grant applications, a list of area artists and information for artists seeking assistance in marketing. Pretty standard stuff, really. No images, just links to text pages. At the time, I thought to myself, "yikes. . .this organization needs a new web page."

Fortunately, I landed the internship and began spending my days in the offices of R2AC. Before lunch break on that first day, I understood the treasure that is R2AC and the rich, positive, creative life force it breathes into this area. Artists dropped in for advice and shared samples of their latest work. People writing grants stopped by with questions about the application process. Someone with an idea for a project came in just to bounce it around. I realized, first hand, how much this organization does to sustain the art culture in our north woods world.

Each day, artists came and went. Upon their departure I would return to the computer smiling broadly with eyes as wide as saucers, feeling grateful to spend my days in such a soul nourishing atmosphere. Often I found myself thinking that the online presence in no way reflects what is happening here.

Well, two years later, an updated web page is finally here and it

illuminates the work of R2AC!

Okay, they have more than updated it, they have completely renovated it. If you haven't surfed the internet lately and stopped off at <http://r2arts.org/>, you should. What was once a simple, standard web page has now evolved into an educational experience sure to motivate an arts enthusiast to become more involved and inspire an artist to get cracking on finally applying for a grant, starting a website for promoting works, enrolling in the artist registry or experiencing a risk-free workshop.

The website has a mecca of art information for those of us fortunate enough to live in Region 2. Thanks to the thoughtful, genius work of Vivienne Morgan, the web designer, it offers much more than data. The new site is an artful experience. Full-color, vibrant images of local art, grant writing tips, personal stories of grantees, links to and explanations of local and state arts advocacy groups and organizations all enhance R2AC's online presence. The site even has an RSS option so you can be notified of new opportunities via email. Pretty fabulous stuff, really.

And it should be. R2AC has made a profound impact on life as we know it. It certainly has impacted mine.

Rather than shout the good news from the rooftop, in these modern times I'll simply send out a mass email with the link to the new page. Then I'll mention R2AC has a fan page on Facebook as well. [www.facebook.com/pages/Region-2-Arts-Council/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Region-2-Arts-Council/)

*Katie Carter is a poet, freelance writer and instructor in the Mass Communications Department at the Bemidji State University.*

September/October 2009

Vol. 12 No. 2

### **Region 2 Arts Council Offers Grants**

R2AC has several upcoming grant deadlines for eligible artists and art organizations in the five-county area of Region 2, which includes Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods and Mahanomen Counties.

#### **Arts Project Grants**

*September 10 & March 11*

For any organization, school or community group that needs funding assistance with an arts project or event.

#### **Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Grants**

*October 1 & March 4*

Grants awarded to individuals, schools and organizations for projects that address AAI's mission of supporting, maintaining and promoting traditional and contemporary Native American art.

#### **Individual Artists Grants**

*October 8 & February 11*

Designed for artists at various career stages for production or exhibition of art, performances, workshop fees, materials/equipment, mentorships and projects.

#### **McKnight Grants for Arts Organizations.**

*January 7*

For 501(c)3 arts organizations that need funding assistance for events or for small capital items.

For information and applications, contact Terri Widman at R2AC. 218-751-5447 or 800-275-5447. E-mail: [r2arts@paulbunyan.net](mailto:r2arts@paulbunyan.net). To download the guidelines and applications, visit: [www.r2arts.org](http://www.r2arts.org)

## R2AC Grant Writing Workshops

<b>Baudette</b> Individual Artist Grant Arts Project Grant	<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>LOW High School ITV Rm.</b> 5:00 - 6:00p.m. 6:00 - 7:00p.m.
<b>Park Rapids</b> Arts Project Grant Individual Artist Grant	<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>Public Library Conf. Rm.</b> 5:00 - 6:00p.m. 6:00 - 7:00p.m.

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION is required.** To reserve a place in a free workshop or for further information, please call 218-751-5447 or 1-800-257-5447, or e-mail: [r2arts@paulbunyan.net](mailto:r2arts@paulbunyan.net)

## Workshop Funding Available

Region 2 Arts Council invites individuals and organizations from our five-county area (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods and Mahnommen counties) to propose workshop ideas for direct funding. The workshop is funded with no financial risk to you.

The workshop must focus on learning experiences for adult artists and be open to the public. Any group that wants to bring in an artist to do a workshop is eligible, as are regional artists who wish to present a workshop themselves. Proposals are considered on an ongoing basis, but funds are limited. The sooner you contact us, the better.

Contact Terri Widman, R2AC Executive Director, at 218-751-5447 or 1-800-275-5447 if you have questions or wish to request an application.

### Showcase Artist Cindy Burger

Cabin Image Necklace  
Sterling and Labradorite  
1 1/4" x 1 5/8"

~See Page 4 for more from Cindy~



NORTHERN ARTS NEWS is a free publication of the Region 2 Arts Council, published 6 times per year, with a distribution of over 1,300.

Funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, *Northern Arts News* provides news and information to artists in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties of north central Minnesota.

We welcome:

- story topic ideas;
- guest commentary topic ideas;
- names to add to our mailing list;
- collaboration and registration notifications.

To submit information and/or to be added to our mailing list, contact the R2AC office:

Call: 218-751-5447 or 1-800-275-5447

FAX: 218-751-2777

E-mail: [r2arts@paulbunyan.net](mailto:r2arts@paulbunyan.net)

Website: [www.r2arts.org](http://www.r2arts.org)

*Northern Arts News*  
Region 2 Arts Council  
426 Bemidji Avenue  
Bemidji, MN 56601

### Fiscal Year 2009 Board of Directors

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GUEST COMMENTARY inquiries are invited. Submit your topic idea to Terri Widman by telephone, FAX, or e-mail. Selected works must be previously unpublished and fit within the space allotment.

Due to the advanced print deadlines of this publication, we suggest that you call to confirm dates, times, and other pertinent information about events and opportunities listed here.

## ARTS & CULTURAL LEGACY GRANT FUNDS COMING IN 2010

Artists, arts and non-profit organizations, schools, cities and communities will want to start planning to take advantage of these funds in January 2010. The Region 2 Arts Council (R2AC) will receive approximately \$234,000 in 2010 to be re-granted in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Mahnomen and Lake of the Woods counties.

The R2AC along with the other regional arts councils and Minnesota State Arts Board is developing the strategic plan for these funds to ensure we are meeting the needs in our region and state. The information gathered throughout the state and our region through needs assessment surveys is being utilized in this process. We continue to seek public input and are happy to talk with you about any additional ideas or suggestions you may have.

The Arts & Cultural Legacy funds will be directed toward the following three priorities established as part of the legislation: Arts Access, Arts Education and Cultural Heritage.

78% for Arts Access: To support Minnesota artists and arts organizations in creating, producing and presenting high-quality arts activities; to overcome barriers to accessing the arts; and to instill the arts into the community and public life in this state.

15% for Art Education: This will be to fund proposals that support life-long learning and appreciation of the arts, including support for K-12 activities that enhance but not replace school arts curriculum.

5% for Cultural Heritage: For events and activities that represent the diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions, including folk and traditional artists and art organizations, represented in this state.

Proposals must address at least one key area. We will encourage proposals that incorporate multiple focus areas as well as collaborations and partnerships to deliver effective arts services.

### Open Mic Performance and 10 Minute Play Festival at Long Lake Theater

Every Saturday night in September at 7 p.m.  
Each performance will benefit the Hubbard County Food Shelf

Admission: A cash donation or non-perishable food item.

Enjoy performances by regional musicians such as County 20, Alabaster Falls and others. Performers of all sorts, writers, musicians, comedians and actors, are encouraged to step up to the microphone and share their talent.

Local playwrights, actors and directors, novice and professional, are invited to submit proposals for the 10 Minute Play Festivals coinciding with Long Lake Theater's food drive.

For more information, contact Long Lake Theater at [www.longlaketheater.net](http://www.longlaketheater.net) or 218-732-0099. The theater is located in Hubbard (8 miles SE of Park Rapids)

## Call for Artists

Bemidji Community Art Center and Bemidji State University Visual Arts Department announce the 7th annual

### It's Only Clay 2009 Juried Ceramics Competition and Exhibit

This year's juror is artist and potter Richard Bresnahn.

**Submission Deadline:  
Sept. 4 (postmarked)**

**Application fee:  
\$30 for 3 entries**

Accepted work will be on display at BCAC Nov. 6 - Dec. 19, 2009.

Prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners equaling \$1,600.

Additional purchase awards for work going towards the Margaret Harlow Vessel Collection at BSU.

For more information, contact BCAC at 218-444-7570 or [bcac@paulbunyan.net](mailto:bcac@paulbunyan.net). For prospectus and application, visit [www.bcac.wordpress.com](http://www.bcac.wordpress.com).

Northern Arts News

Submission deadline

**October 7**

for the

**Nov./Dec. issue**

Please send to:

[amy.zimmermann@hotmail.com](mailto:amy.zimmermann@hotmail.com)

or

[r2arts@paulbunyan.net](mailto:r2arts@paulbunyan.net)

## AUDITION

*Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol"*

Presented in December by Paul Bunyan Playhouse and KG Entertainment.

Auditions: End of October

For information call: 218-280-6602.

### The River of Time Studio

Visit artist Paula J. Swenson's working studio nestled in the woods just south of Bemidji.

Open Noon - 4 p.m.  
Sept. 4 & 5, 2009  
18 & 19, 2009  
Oct. 2 & 3, 2009

Appointments can be made on short notice.

218-751-6767  
1017 N. Plantagent Rd. SE  
Bemidji, MN 56601

## Bemidji First City of Arts STUDIO CRUISE

**October 16 and 17** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**October 18** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Self-guided tour showcases some of the Bemidji area's best-known artisans in their studios.

Painters, potters, fiber artists, jewelers, sculptures, workers in wood and more will be demonstrating techniques and sharing the creative process in their studios.

### Studio Cruise Opening Reception

Friday, October 16, 2009  
6 - 8 p.m.

Bemidji Community Art Center

An evening of music and refreshments. Meet the artists and preview their work.

For more information, contact the BCAC at [bcac@paulbunyan.net](mailto:bcac@paulbunyan.net) or visit [www.visitbemidji.com](http://www.visitbemidji.com) for a full listing of Studio Cruise 2009 activities.

## R2AC Seeking Anishinaabe Arts Initiative (AAI) Council Members

R2AC is currently seeking AAI Council members to fill vacancies beginning November 1, 2009. Members must live in the Region 2 service area, which includes Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods and Mahnommen counties or in the nearby counties of Becker, Cass, Itasca and Roseau.

The AAI Council is responsible for reviewing and awarding grants. The council meets two times per year in Bemidji during the months of November and April. Members are reimbursed for travel and paid a stipend for attending meetings.

To receive an application form, write to Nominating Committee, Region 2 Arts Council, 426 Bemidji Avenue, Bemidji, MN 56601; or call R2AC Executive Director Terri Widman at 751-5447 or 800-275-5447.

## About the Showcase Artist Cindy Burger

### Artist's Statement:

*"I enjoy the challenge of creating uncommon pieces that are clearly recognizable - jewelry that goes beyond adornment and may enrich the wearer's soul. Images from nature are often incorporated as well as ancient symbols and fanciful designs."*



Salmon Netter pin  
Copper and Sterling  
1 3/4" x 1 1/8"

**ART LEAP 2009**

Saturday and Sunday  
September 26-27  
11a.m. - 5p.m.

Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council (PRLAAC) is pleased to sponsor the 4th Annual Art Leap.

**TOUR ARTISTS' AND ARTISANS' STUDIOS:**

**Raymond Wattenhofer**, oils & prints

**Bickey Bender**, mixed media & watercolors

**Jo Hill**, woven silk, wool, chenille and painted silk wearables

**Abner Jonas & Kathleen Ristinen Jonas**, etchings, woodcuts, rag rugs, pottery

**Terri Young**, painting/**Peter Young**, pottery. Demos at studio.

**Jim Kropp**, silversmith (group exhibit at Terrapin Station, in Nevis.)

**Sandy Fynboh**, blown glass, lampwork beads. Demos at 10, 12 and 2 p.m.

**Gary & Marsha Wolff**, pottery & mosaics. Demos both days.

**Native Harvest and Minwanjige Cafe**, Ojibwe arts & crafts

**The "Twisted Stitchers"** fiber guild at North Country Museum of Arts. Demos  
11 a.m., 2 and 4:30 p.m.

**LIVE PERFORMANCES AT LONG LAKE THEATER 2 - 4 p.m. Saturday**

**Ben Ranson**, singer/songwriter

**Jane Wolff**, pianist

**"The Twigs"**, literary readings

The brochure/map lists more artists and features Forestedge Winery & Gallery, Itasca State Park and Native Harvest & Minwanjige Café. Maps available at the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center and online [www.parkrapids.com](http://www.parkrapids.com) and [www.prlaac.org](http://www.prlaac.org).

Funding is provided in part by Itasca-Mantrap's Operation Round Up, Walmart and Region 2 Arts Council through funding from the Minnesota State Legislature.

*North Country Arts and Crafts Workshop*

September 15, 16 and 17, 2009

at El Lago del Bosque (Spanish), Concordia Language Villages near Bemidji

**Registration Information:**

- Everyone must be pre-registered to insure a place in class.
- Registration will be handled on a first come, first serve basis.
- No registrations will be accepted by phone.
- Use one registration form per person.
- Everyone must select a package for classes and food.
- Lodging packages are available

For more information about the workshop visit [www.paulbunyan.net/northart](http://www.paulbunyan.net/northart). To obtain a workshop brochure, contact [castle@paulbunyan.net](mailto:castle@paulbunyan.net).

*North Dakota Museum of Art*  
presents  
*Snow Country Prison: Interned in North Dakota*

**September 1 - 25, 2009**

North Country Museum, Park Rapids

**October 6 - 20, 2009**

White Earth Veterans Memorial  
Building, Mahnommen

The North Dakota Museum of Art, in collaboration with the Minnesota Region 2 Arts Council, is pleased to present "Snow Country Prison: Interned in North Dakota."

This event is free and open to the public with an informal talk on the exhibition by Matthew Wallace, Director of Rural Arts Initiative. All Minnesota sites are funded by the Met Life Foundation.

The exhibition will feature historic photos and murals of the camp, cloth banners imprinted with images of people interned and wall text drawn from the haiku poems of one of the ethnic Japanese internees.

More information, contact Matthew Wallace at [mwallace@ndmoa.com](mailto:mwallace@ndmoa.com), 701-777-4195 or visit [www.ndmoa.com](http://www.ndmoa.com).

**KG Entertainment and the Paul Bunyan Playhouse**  
present

**Bemidji's First "Out of the Hat" Performance**

Saturday, September 26, 2009  
8 p.m.  
at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse

In 26 hours, 6 local playwrights, 6 local directors and 21 local actors will write, cast and rehearse a play to present the audience 2 hours of adult entertainment.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

Sept. 4

Oct. 2

Downtown Bemidji

More information in our "Calendar of Events" under each participating business or gallery.

#### SEPTEMBER

##### Through September

**Bemidji Community Art Center** will present "Unique Vision" landscape photos from Utah, Wyoming and Minnesota by artist and photographer Jon Heller. **First Friday** Opening Reception 5 - 7p.m. on Sept. 4. "Unique Vision" will be on display through Oct. 24. The BCAC is free and open to the public. 426 Bemidji Ave N (Carnegie Library). 218-444-7570. [www.bcac.wordpress.com](http://www.bcac.wordpress.com).

##### Through September

**Gallery North** presents Author of the Month Wendy Potratz, author of *Agnes Plays Soccer*. Wendy will read from her book 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. during the **First Friday** Art Walk Sept. 4. She will also be available to sign copies of her book and visit with friends. 502 3rd St. NW. 218-444-9813.

##### Sept. 12 Ethnic Fest,

**Walker.** Craft fair, food and strolling musicians. Noon - 5 p.m. 11 a.m. parade. Cost: \$5. 218-547-1313.

##### Sept. 19 25th Annual Fall Fest, Chester Bowl Park, Duluth.

Crafts, entertainment, farmers market, pony rides and more. 10 - 4 p.m. Cost: \$1. 218-724-9832.

##### Sept. 19-20 Goods from the

**Woods.** IRA Civic Center, Grand Rapids. Forest-based products by artists and artisans ranging from fine-

tuned vessels to fine, handcrafted furniture. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Cost: \$3. 888-649-8705.

**Sept. 24 Beltrami County Historical Society** presents "Voices of the Past - Cemetery Walk." 5:30 p.m. at the Greenwood Cemetery located at 22nd and Paul Bunyan Drive. Historical reenactments of the life and times of area residents. Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets may be purchased at the History Center, 130 Minnesota Ave. SW or at the cemetery prior to the tour. Ticket cost includes raffle drawing, free museum admission and refreshments at the History Center following walk. Participants will meet outside the Greenwood Cemetery office at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 218-444-3376.

#### OCTOBER

##### Through October

**Bemidji Community Art Center**

invites you to the October **First Friday** Art Walk Opening Reception 5 - 7 p.m. Oct. 2. Join the BCAC for the Fall Open House featuring the artists of Shop 426, refreshments and shop specials. Also showing for the second month "Unique Vision" landscape photos by Jon Heller. The BCAC is free and open to the public. 426 Bemidji Ave N (Carnegie Library). [www.bcac.wordpress.com](http://www.bcac.wordpress.com). 218-444-7570.

##### Through October

**Gallery North** presents Author of the Month Art Lee, a Professor Emeritus of History at Bemidji State University. Art will be reading from his newest book, *Real Scandinavians Never Repeat Gossip-So Listen Carefully*, from 2:30-3:00 p.m. during the **First Friday** Art Walk Oct. 2. He will also be available afterwards to discuss his book and his Scandinavian heritage. 502 3rd St. NW. 218-444-9813.

Oct. 2-4

Bayfield Apple

### Bemidji Area Arts Endowment

## Oompah for the Arts

6th Annual Fund raiser

Friday, September 18, 2009

The \$50 ticket price includes a Wine and Beer Tasting from 6-8 p.m., a full course German dinner and music for your dancing and listening pleasure by Dennis Doeden, Tuba Jim and Friends from 6 to 10 p.m. All this and a \$35 tax deductible donation rolled into one.

Bemidji Town and Country Club  
\$50 per person

For tickets:

Mike Tangen  
218-444-8310

[mtangen@paulbunyan.net](mailto:mtangen@paulbunyan.net)

Jeanette Halcrow  
218-444-2689

To reserve a table for a group or corporate sponsorship, contact Mike.

The Bemidji Area Arts Endowment is a component fund of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

**Festival, Downtown Bayfield, WI.**

48th annual apple harvest festival with apple vendors, food, live music and parade. 10 - 5 p.m. Cost: Free. 715-779-3335.

**Oct. 10-11 Fall Arts, Crafts & Specialty Show.** Paul Bunyan Mall, Bemidji. Sat. 10 - 7 p.m.; Sun. 12 - 6 p.m. Free. 218-751-3195.

**Oct. 11 Bemidji Symphony Orchestra** presents Subscription Concert 1: "Spanish Triumph" which features Petar Jankovic and Ashley Bremseth. 3 p.m. at Bemidji High School Auditorium. Tickets required. For more information, please visit [www.bemidjisymphony.org](http://www.bemidjisymphony.org).

**Oct. 17 Beltrami County Historical Society** will host "Northern Minnesota's Myths and Mysteries" history conference from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, Bemidji. Cost: \$35, \$30 for seniors 62 and better and \$40 the day of the conference. For more information, call 218-444-3376.

**Oct. 24 "Up North" Show, Westridge Mall, Fergus Falls.** Artists, hobbyists, crafters and organizations associated with "Up North" theme. 9 - 6 p.m. Cost: Free. 218-739-4439.

**Talking Stick Book Release Party**

September 26, 2009  
1 p.m.

Northwoods Bank, Park Rapids

Special guest Faith Sullivan, celebrity judge, will be in attendance.

Books will be for sale, refreshments and readings.

Sponsored by the Jackpine Writers' Bloc. For information, contact Sharon at [sharrick1@wcta.net](mailto:sharrick1@wcta.net).

**Bemidji Concert Series**

September 27, 2009 Thompson Recital Hall, BSU	Minnesota Orchestra Select Soloists 7:30 p.m.
October 30, 2009 Thompson Recital Hall, BSU	Gothenburg Combo 7:30 p.m.
January 29, 2010 BHS Auditorium	Ahn Trio 7:30 p.m.
February 28, 2010 Vida BHS Auditorium	Doc Severinsen & El Ritmo De La 7:30 p.m.
April 8, 2010 piano BHS Auditorium	Midori with Robert McDonald, 7:30 p.m.

**For more information or for tickets, call 218-755-2915.**

General:	\$20
Students:	\$5
Reserved seating for Midori:	\$30
General seating for Doc Severinsen Concert only:	\$25

*The true work of art is but a shadow of the divine perfection.*  
~ Michelangelo

**Make a Difference - Become a Partner with R2AC**

It's been a while since we've heard from you. Your renewed financial support of Region 2 Arts Council is extremely important. Please renew your support today. Your partnership with Region 2 Arts Council strengthens the presence of the arts by supporting opportunities for arts creation, promotion, education, and funding for the people of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen Counties. People like you help to sustain our programs and services.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle Level of Partnership**

\$50 Individual	\$100 Family
\$250 Sponsor	\$500 & Up Corporate



**Region 2 Arts Council**  
**426 Bemidji Ave.**  
**Bemidji, MN 56601-3139**

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*NORTHERN ARTS NEWS* is a free publication of the Region 2 Arts Council, funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation. Mission: "The Region 2 Arts Council strengthens the presence of the arts by supporting opportunities for arts creation, promotion, education and funding for the people of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods and Mahnommen Counties."

## Noteworthy

**Lynn Levin's** third book of poetry, *Fair Creatures of an Hour*, was published by Loonfeather Press of Bemidji.

**Ernest Dunn**, a Cass Lake painter and sculptor, and **Gordon Van Wert**, a Park Rapids sculptor, are exhibiting their work at the Trickster Gallery in Chicago, IL opening on September 5 through November 27, 2009.

Nevis writer **Judy Merritt** was chosen as the 2009 "Northwoods Woman" fiction contest winner with "Dear Prudence," a story/chapter of a novel she is currently writing. The story was published in the July/August issue of "Northwoods Woman." The contest was judged by Angie Drobnic Holan, a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist at *St. Petersburg Times* in Florida. Tolkkinen Communications in Bemidji publishes "Northwoods Woman" magazine six times a year.

**Sheryl Olson** received the Bemidji Sculpture Walk People's Choice Award for her sculpture "It's About Time" located on the corner of 6th and Beltrami by the courthouse.

**Kathy Gustafson** had two sculptures accepted by the Edina Promenade project, a new sculpture venue with walking and bike paths just north of the Centennial Lakes park in Edina. The sculptures are "MinnEco Turtle" and "Signpost 49-1." Both are welded steel sculptures and will be on display there for a year.

Area artists received awards at the Artists of Minnesota Spring Show in Bemidji on May 15-17, 2009. **Kathy Gustafson**, Bemidji, was awarded First in Super Gold for "Mountain Music" and Merit in the Theme Category for "Little Dreams." **Joyce Martin**, Bemidji, received Merit for "Night Wave" in the Division 1 Landscape Advanced category. **Erma Stelter**, Bemidji, was awarded Merit for "Homestead Pantry" in the Division 2 Still Life/Floral category. In Division 3 Portraits/Animals, **Jeannine Brooks**, Bemidji, received second place for "Just Chickin" and **Marion Reil**, Bemidji, was awarded Merit for "Illusionary Chickadee's." **Jill Geisen Clack**, Park Rapids, received Merit for "Courtship of a Song" and **Judith Selby**, Bemidji, was awarded Merit for "Gathering" in the Division 4 Abstract/Experimental category. In Division 5 Dimensional, **Colleen Hilts**, Bemidji, received First and Creativity for "Whimsical Hostel Hotel." **Eve Sumsy**, Bemidji, was awarded second for "Tapestry Basket" and Merit for "Oopsy IV." **Mary Beth Vaudren**, Shevlin, received Merit for "Wall of Color" and in the advanced portion of this category, **Grace Privratsky**, Bemidji, received second for "Evening Grosbeek Pair."

Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts **Sheila Smith** was presented the Alene Valkanas State Arts Advocacy Award. This award honors an individual who has dramatically affected the political landscape through arts advocacy efforts at the state level. Last year, MCA and the Vote Yes Minnesota campaign, successfully advocated for the passage of the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.