



UNITED STATES ARTISTS ANNOUNCES 50 USA FELLOWSHIPS FOR 2007

Artists in Design, Literary, Media, Performing, and Visual Arts From Across the Country Each Receive \$50,000 Award

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LOS ANGELES, CA, November 15, 2007—United States Artists (USA), a national organization that provides direct support for living artists, today announced the recipients of fifty USA Fellowships for 2007 totaling \$2.5 million. This marks the second year of the USA Fellows program, which annually awards fifty \$50,000 unrestricted grants to artists of all disciplines from across the country, in recognition of the caliber and impact of their work. Expert panels selected the 53 winning artists (including three collaboratives) from among 344 nominated applicants ranging from 23 to 97 years of age and hailing from 42 states. The USA Fellows for 2007 will be honored this Saturday, November 17, in a celebration at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles.

The USA Fellows program honors artists working in eight artistic disciplines and at all stages of their careers, from emerging artists to mid-career to those who have achieved master status in their fields. The USA Fellowships for 2007 include three in **Architecture and Design**; five in **Crafts and Traditional Arts**; six in **Dance**; nine in **Literature** (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, playwriting); five in **Media** (film, radio, video); six in **Music**; six in **Theater Arts**; and 10 in **Visual Arts**. The complete list of winners is provided below.

Collectively, this year's USA Fellows represent a diverse spectrum of geographic, cultural, and ethnic perspectives. Their influences range from science to hip-hop and from the newest musical forms to ancient tribal traditions. The youngest of the USA Fellows for 2007 is 30-year-old violinist **Leila Josefowicz**; the eldest, renowned dancer and choreographer **Anna Halprin**, is 87. The honorees include the distinguished visual artist **Ann Hamilton** and theater director **Robert Woodruff**, whose acclaimed bodies of work stretch over decades. Others, like jazz pianist and composer **Jason Moran**, Native American filmmaker **Chris Eyre**, and visual artist **Edgar Arceneaux** are newer talents of early achievement and great promise. One particularly fortuitous outcome of the panel review process resulted in the selection of two USA Fellows for 2007 from the same family. Choreographer and dancer **Bill T. Jones** is being honored alongside his sister, theater artist and writer **Rhodesa Jones**.

“In a climate of declining support for individual artists, USA is investing in the nation’s creativity and shining a light on the important contributions of our finest artists,” said Susan V. Berresford, USA board chair and president of the Ford Foundation.

“The USA Fellows for 2007 are dynamic artists whose unique visions and creative contributions are opening minds and enlivening communities across America,” added USA Executive Director Katharine DeShaw. “On behalf of the many funders and arts advocates who helped to create USA, we are thrilled to recognize these artists’ accomplishments and fuel their future creative endeavors.”

This Saturday, the USA Fellows for 2007 will gather for a special event with USA supporters at Paramount Studios. USA Fellows Pat Bowie, Michael Doucet, Rennie Harris, Benjamin Millepied, Cherríe Moraga, Marilyn Chin, Helena María Viramontes, and Evan Ziporyn will make special appearances. **Target** has generously underwritten the event and has provided event and marketing expertise. **American Airlines** has offered airfare for the winning artists to attend the celebration, and **Paramount Studios** has donated important production assistance.

The founding of the Los Angeles-based USA in 2006 was prompted by the Urban Institute's breakthrough study, *Investing in Creativity: A Study of the Support Structures for U.S. Artists*. That research found that while 96% of Americans appreciate the arts, only 27% believe that artists contribute to the good of society. In addition, the study discovered that the median reported income for artists from their artistic work was only \$5,000, and that more than half of America's two million artists pay for their own health insurance. Despite those economic challenges, artists contribute directly to advancements in the education of young people, the development of a competitive creative economy, and the revitalization of the nation's neighborhoods and urban centers.

In response to those findings, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Prudential Foundation, and the Rasmuson Foundation contributed a total of \$20 million to establish USA as a structure through which private philanthropists, corporate donors, and other foundations can support individual artists. Due to seed funding from its founders, 100% of current donor contributions directly support artists. USA supporters who have underwritten named USA Fellowships include Eli and Edythe Broad, Ella Fontanals-Cisneros, Agnes Gund, the Todd Simon Foundation, and Target, among others.

USA Fellows for 2007

Architecture and Design

Benjamin Aranda and Christopher Lasch (Aranda/Lasch), USA Target Fellows, New York, New York
Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues (Ball-Nogues Studio), USA Target Fellows, Los Angeles, California
Monica Ponce de Leon and Nader Tehrani (Office dA), USA Target Fellows, Boston, Massachusetts

Crafts and Traditional Arts

Tommy Joseph, USA Kippy Stroud Fellow, Sitka, Alaska
Gwendolyn Magee, USA Ford Fellow, Jackson, Mississippi
Maggie Orth, USA Target Fellow, Seattle, Washington
Virgil Ortiz, USA Target Fellow, Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico
Susie Silook, USA Rasmuson Fellow, Anchorage, Alaska

Dance

Joanna Haigood, USA Glover Fellow, San Francisco, California
Anna Halprin, USA Rasmuson Fellow, San Francisco, California
Rennie Harris, USA Rose Fellow, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Bill T. Jones, USA Eileen Harris Norton Fellow, New York, New York
Benjamin Millepied, USA Wynn Fellow, New York, New York
Shen Wei, USA Prudential Fellow, New York, New York

Literature

Marilyn Chin, USA Hoi Fellow, San Diego, California
Henri Cole, USA Hildreth/Williams Fellow, Columbus, Ohio
Charles D'Ambrosio, USA Rasmuson Fellow, Portland, Oregon
William Gay, USA Ford Fellow, Hohenwald, Tennessee
John Haines, USA Rasmuson Fellow, Fairbanks, Alaska
Mat Johnson, USA James Baldwin Fellow, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Cherríe Moraga, USA Rockefeller Fellow, Oakland, California
Luis Valdez, USA Rockefeller Fellow, San Juan Bautista, California
Helena María Viramontes, USA Ford Fellow, Ithaca, New York

Media

Julie Dash, USA Rockefeller Fellow, Los Angeles, California
Chris Eyre, USA Rockefeller Fellow, Rapid City, South Dakota
Judith Helfand, USA Simon Fellow, New York, New York
Alex Rivera, USA Nimoy Fellow, New York, New York
Susan Stone, USA Rasmuson Fellow, San Francisco, California

Music

Don Byron, USA Prudential Fellow, Boiceville, New York
Michael Doucet, USA Collins Fellow, Lafayette, Louisiana
Leila Josefowicz, USA Cummings Fellow, New York, New York
Jason Moran, USA Prudential Fellow, New York, New York
John Santos, USA Fontanals Fellow, Oakland, California
Evan Ziporyn, USA Walker Fellow, Boston, Massachusetts

Theater Arts

Pat Bowie, USA Prudential Fellow, Boca Raton, Florida
Rhodessa Jones, USA Prudential Fellow, San Francisco, California
Tina Landau, USA Ford Fellow, Brooklyn, New York
Elizabeth LeCompte, USA Rockefeller Fellow, New York, New York
Michael Sommers, USA Ford Fellow, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Robert Woodruff, USA Biller Fellow, New York, New York

Visual Arts

Edgar Arceneaux, USA Broad Fellow, Los Angeles, California
Uta Barth, USA Broad Fellow, Los Angeles, California
Paul Chan, USA Gund Fellow, New York, New York
Charles Gaines, USA Broad Fellow, Los Angeles, California
Ann Hamilton, USA Gund Fellow, Columbus, Ohio
Daniel Joseph Martinez, USA Broad Fellow, Los Angeles, California
Marcos Ramirez ERRE, USA Gund Fellow, San Ysidro, California
Allan Sekula, USA Broad Fellow, Los Angeles, California
Gary Simmons, USA Gund Fellow, New York, New York
Zoe Strauss, USA Gund Fellow, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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