

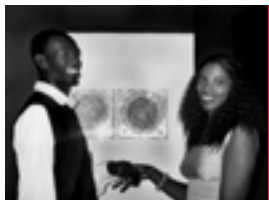
the Courier



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAM H. JOHNSON FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE COURIER.

Much has happened since our first issue...we are pleased to bring you up to date and we thank you for your continued support and interest.



Nadine Robinson and
2004 WHJ Prize Winner
Kori Newkirk at the
2004 Gala

Examples of the work of
Nadine Robinson, 2003
WHJ Prize Winner
and Kori Newkirk, 2004
WHJ Prize Winner



2004: KORI NEWKIRK WINS THE 2004 WHJ PRIZE OF \$25,000

The 2004 William H. Johnson Prize was awarded to Kori Newkirk. Born in Bronx, New York in 1970, Newkirk lives and works in Los Angeles. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1993 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of California, Irvine in 1997. He also was an artist in residence at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine in 1997.

Known mostly for his beaded curtains, Newkirk creates works in a range of media including photography and installation. In the last several years, Newkirk's work has been widely exhibited in prestigious museum group exhibitions including *Freestyle*, Studio Museum in Harlem, 2001; *One Planet Under a Groove: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art*, Bronx Museum, 2001; *A Century of Collecting: African American Art*, The Art Institute of Chicago, 2003; *Black Belt*, Studio Museum in Harlem; and the California Biennial, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, 2004. He has also had one-person shows in New York and Los Angeles.

The jury also awarded Finalist Prizes of \$1000 each to Edgar Arceneaux and Mark Bradford, both of Los Angeles, making 2004 a clean sweep for Los Angeles artists.

THE PRIZE

2003: NADINE ROBINSON RECEIVES THE 2003 WHJ PRIZE OF \$20,000

The 2003 William H. Johnson Prize was awarded to Nadine Robinson. Born in London in 1968, Robinson lives and works in New York. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1995 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from New York University in 1997. She has been honored with artist in residencies at several prestigious venues including the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine in 1997 and the Studio Museum in Harlem in 2000.

Known for her large-scale sculpture and sound installations called "boom paintings," Nadine Robinson's art fuses a modernist sensibility with an African American musical aesthetic. She works within a minimalist vocabulary, combining sounds, audio equipment and unconventional materials in challenging ways.

In the last several years, Robinson's work has been exhibited both in group and solo exhibitions, notably her 2003 solo exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, and in group exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem in 2001 (*Freestyle*) and PS1/MOMA's historically important exhibition *Greater New York*.

Tana Hargest was awarded \$1000 as a Finalist.

PARTIES

2003 GALA

Harlem Nights in Pacific Palisades was held at the home of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey, and it was a splendid success. The Kinseys turned their home into the *Club Alabam*, the late, great Central Avenue nightclub. Guests took the theme to heart, and many arrived in 1920s attire. The best-dressed couple award went to Phoebe Beasley and Don Alberti, whose elegance (Phoebe) and dapperness (Don) were unsurpassed. The major thrill of the evening was a performance by Billy Davis and Marilyn McCoo, with Billy's rendition of *Stormy Monday* wowing the crowd. A silent art auction featured works by Richard Mayhew, Alison Saar, Phoebe Beasley, Artis Lane and 2002 WHJ Prizewinner Laylah Ali. The Mayhew was the top lot, selling for \$7,000. Thank you to our bidders and to our generous artists.



Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, Jr. performing at the 2003 Gala at Klub Kinsey



Sheila and James Bird at the 2003 Gala.



2004 GALA

The foundation's 2004 Gala, *Pass the Butta*, was held high above downtown Los Angeles at Windows Restaurant in the Transamerica Tower. Board member Joy Simmons hosted the event, which introduced some of the best California artists to the guests. The winner of the 2003 prize, Nadine Robinson, flew in from New York, and local artists were there to greet her and to meet the party goers, including Mark Bradford, Kori Newkirk, Edgar Arceneaux and Ronald Clark of Los Angeles; Arnold Kemp came in from San Francisco. A silent auction featured works by Nadine Robinson, Mark Greenfield, Kori Newkirk, Richard Wyatt, Alison Saar and Artis Lane, and the bidding drew spirited competition. Thank you again to our bidders and artists.

Special thanks go to Steve Martin and the Steve Martin Charitable Foundation for underwriting this event. Mr. Martin has been a generous donor since the Foundation's inception. Thanks go as well to the four sponsors who enabled the many artists to attend as guests: Eileen Harris Norton, Joanne Busuttill, Maryanne Mott and Herman Warsh, and the Angel City Links.



Artist sponsor Eileen Harris Norton and 2004 WHJ Prize Finalist Mark Bradford at the 2004 Gala

2005 GALA

See below...



2004 WHJ Prize Finalist
Edgar Arceneaux
at the 2004 Gala

Phoebe Beasley
and Don Alberti, "Best
Dressed" at the
2003 Gala



WHJFA ADDS TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At a meeting on May 11, 2005, the board voted unanimously to add two new board members: Eungie Joo and Dee Kerrison. Both are outstanding additions to the board and each brings special qualifications to the Foundation.

Eungie Joo is director and curator of the Gallery at REDCAT (the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater) in Los Angeles. She has produced and organized projects, residencies, and exhibitions with Mark Bradford and Glenn Kaino, Sora Kim and Gimhongsok, Barry McGee, Taro Shinoda, Lisa Sigal, Lorna Simpson, and Superflex. She was co-founder of the project *Six Months: Crenshaw* (2003) a temporary site for conversation, exhibition, performance, and collectivity through dialogue and critique. Joo received her doctorate in Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. She is currently working on projects with Kara Walker, Damián Ortega, Edgar Arceneaux and Charles Gaines.

Dee Kerrison is a resident director of the Merrill Lynch Wealth Management office in Costa Mesa. A graduate of City College of New York, Kerrison entered the financial services industry in 1984, with stints at Merrill Lynch and Drexel Burnham in New York, before joining Smith Barney in Newport Beach in 1989. He is currently a member of the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce and the Orange County Chapter of the NAACP and sits on the board of directors for Opera Pacific in Costa Mesa. He lives with his wife, Gianna and their son Dee Jr. in Newport Coast and is very active in his church and community.

JOY SIMMONS, NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE WHJFA

Joy Simmons was recently elected to serve a two-year term as Chairman of the Board of the WHJFA. She takes over the helm from Bernard Kinsey who served in the same capacity since 2002. Simmons has been on the board since 2003 and was the host of the 2004 Gala.

2005 GALA: OCTOBER 22 AT THE JONATHAN CLUB, LOS ANGELES

Board member Robert C. Davidson, Jr. is hosting the upcoming Fifth Annual Southern California Gala at the downtown Jonathan Club. It promises to be our biggest and best gala ever. It will be held in the main ballroom of this historic 1925 building and will feature entertainment by Deniece Williams, known for such hits as *Black Butterfly* and *Too Much, Too Little, Too Late* (with Johnny Mathis). In addition, there will be an outstanding silent auction featuring works by fifteen artists including Gary Simmons, Sam Durant, Glenn Ligon, David Korty, Glenn Kaino, Alison Saar, Mark Steven Greenfield, Richard Wyatt, and 2004 Prizewinner Kori Newkirk. Reserve your tickets early as this event will sell out quickly!



Singer Deniece Williams
to perform at the 2005
Gala on October 22

Photo by Kelsey Edwards



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