

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor O'Malley announces 2010 Individual Artist Awards *98 Maryland artists to receive total of \$250,000 in arts grants*

BALTIMORE – February 25, 2010 – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that 98 Maryland artists representing eight artistic disciplines have been selected to receive Individual Artist Awards totaling \$250,000 from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), an agency of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED). Fiscal Year 2010 competition categories, which alternate yearly, were digital/electronic arts; fiction; media; solo dance performance; solo musical performance; solo theatrical performance; visual arts (painting); and visual arts (works on paper).

"Maryland's creative community is a vibrant force that strengthens the State on both a cultural and economic level," said Governor O'Malley. "These awards are a tribute to the work of Maryland artists and represent a solid investment in an industry that continues to grow our economy and create jobs."

"Individual Artist Awards are one of our most sought-after grants," said E. Scott Johnson, chair of the Maryland State Arts Council. "The accomplishments and talent that the artist applicants demonstrate are always impressive."

Out-of-state juries representing each artistic discipline anonymously reviewed a total of 619 applications before awarding individual grants of \$1,000, \$3,000 and \$6,000. The grants were determined solely on the basis of artistic merit. MSAC partners with the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation to administer the judging process.

Applications for next year's (FY 2011) awards must be submitted to the Arts Council by this July. Visit www.msac.org for details.

The mission of the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, is to encourage and invest in the advancement of the arts for the people of Maryland. In FY 2008, the Maryland arts industry contributed \$1.2 billion to the State's economy and provided 15,000 jobs to Maryland residents. For more information about the Maryland State Arts Council visit the MSAC web site at www.msac.org or call 410-767-6555 or TDD/TTY 800-735-2258.

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