



Awards Ceremony 2020



NATIONAL
ART EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

SHAPING HUMAN POTENTIAL

Welcome to the NAEA's Eastern Awards Ceremony!



Thank you for coming and supporting, recognizing and celebrating the incredible artists, educators, advocates of the Eastern Region.

“The aim of art education in the public schools
is not to make more professional artists but
to teach people to live happier, fuller lives;
to extract more out of their experience,
whatever that experience may be.”

- ***Grant Wood***

The individuals we honor today, have exemplified this aim.
They have innovated ways to help improve the lives of the
children and adults they come in contact with, to help
others come to know about their world and themselves as
individuals, and they have done so through the power of art.

2020 STATE AWARD WINNERS

Connecticut — **Cristina Pinton**
Delaware — **Lindsey Ostafy**
District of Columbia —
Briana Zavadil-White
Maine — **Amy Cousins**
Maryland — **Gino Molfino**
Massachusetts — **Lizzie Fortin**

New Hampshire — **Aimee Piccolo**
New Jersey — **Harry Bower**
New York — **No Recipient**
Pennsylvania — **Janet Riggio**
Rhode Island — **Anita Thompson**
Vermont — **Rachel Mangan**
West Virginia — **Sherri Butler**



NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS FROM THE EASTERN REGION

COMC J. Eugene Grigsby, Jr. Award — **Michelle Bae-Dimitriadis**, *Pennsylvania*
Eastern Region Elementary Art Educator — **Pamela Armstrong**, *Pennsylvania*
Eastern Region Higher Education Art Educator — **Nan Park**, *Maryland*
Eastern Region Middle Level Art Educator — **David Anderson**, *Maryland*
Eastern Region Preservice Art Educator — **Caddy Cicogna**, *Massachusetts*
Eastern Region Secondary Art Educator — **Amy Migliore**, *Pennsylvania*
Eastern Region Supervision/Administration Art Educator — **Gino Molfino**, *Maryland*
Elliot Eisner Lifetime Achievement Award — **Karen Keifer-Boyd**, *Pennsylvania*
Elliot Eisner Doctoral Research Award
in Art Education — **Veronica Betancourt**, *Maryland*
Elliot Eisner Doctoral Research Award in Art Education
Runner-Up — **Felix Rodriguez**, *Pennsylvania*
Lowenfeld — **B. Stephen Carpenter, II**, *Pennsylvania*
Marion Quin Dix Leadership and National Supervision/Administration
Art Educator — **Elizabeth Stuart Whitehead**, *Maryland*
National Middle Level Art Educator — **Benjamin Tellie**, *Maryland*
National Museum Education Art Educator — **Michelle Grohe**, *Massachusetts*
New Professional Art Educator — **Samantha Waid**, *Maryland*
Preservice Chapter Sponsor Award of Excellence — **Kay Broadwater**, *Maryland*
Newsletter Award Category II — **Maine Art Education Association**



Eastern Region Art Educator of the Year

Krisiti Oliver

Kristi Oliver is currently the Professional Development Manager for Davis Publications in Worcester, MA. Drawing from over 15 years of secondary and university teaching experience, Dr. Oliver aims to assist communities in providing high quality art education experiences for all learners. She earned a PhD from Lesley University where her research explored the perspectives of high school photography teachers regarding visual literacy. Her research interests include visual literacy, 21st C. art education, contemporary photography, slow pedagogy, contemplative practice, and the creative process. Her research has been published in numerous publications. She is a contributing editor for *The Visual Experience* 4th edition and *School Arts Collection: STEAM*. She currently serves as editor of the NAEA publication, *Translations*. Dr. Oliver has presented at numerous conferences including the International Visual Literacy Conference, the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA) World Congress, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, the International Transformative Learning Conference, the World Alliance for Arts Education Conference, as well as the MAEA conference and NAEA conventions. A practicing studio artist, her artwork has been featured in numerous gallery exhibitions as well as in many publications. Dr. Oliver was awarded the Massachusetts Art Educator of the Year and the Secondary Art Educator of the Year. Additionally, she was honored as an Outstanding Arts Advocate in Art Education by Arts|Learning, a Kennedy Center Affiliate. She served as the President of the Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA) and currently serves on the NAEA Research Commission. Dr. Oliver is the Program Director for Art All-State Massachusetts, an annual program that brings together professional artists and high school juniors for an intense collaborative art making experience.



CONNECTICUT

Cristina Pinton

A member of International Boys School Coalition, Cristina- presented at the Annual IBSC 2018 Conference in Maryland, “Visual Arts Projects and Collaborations that Most Inspired our Boys”. She volunteers at the National Arts Program, securing donations and outreach, and co-produced the “Teens Reaching out to Teens” initiative in 2019. She helped find a new location for the NEXT-Emerging Talent exhibit. Cristina began this middle and high school joint exhibit at the Avon Old Farms School in hopes of bridging local public and private schools.

Cristina is an active member of the CAEA Board of Directors. She serves as the Independent Schools Representative and as part of the CT Regional Scholastic Art Awards Advisory Board. Cristina co-planned the CAEA member art exhibit at the Art Gallery At Mill in Unionville in November 2019. The exhibit encourages conversations and collaboration/networking among members.

Cristina is an ETS AP Art Studio score reader for June of 2020 and she established a NAHS Chapter in December 2019 in her school. She received the Kenneth Fanning Faculty Award in 2017 and served as Visual Arts Liaison for school Strategic Committee at Avon Old Farms School in 2016/2017. She developed both the AOF Curriculum and “Afternoon Independent Project Program,” for students who need time, support and space to pursue projects. This program has grown to offer students to switch out a sports season to pursue research and work experience with local and community businesses and professional artists.



DELAWARE

Lindsey Ostafy

Lindsey Ostafy began her tenure with Cab Calloway School of the Arts in the fall of 2015. Since that time, she has both excelled in her own classroom and shared valuable and creative lessons with art educators at DAEA Conferences (4) and NAEA Conventions (2). Her students are award winning Artists that flourish under her guidance and instruction. She holds a BFA from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA and an M.Ed in Educational Technology from Wilmington University in Delaware.

During her five years teaching in Middle School, she has created a comprehensive, exciting and creative classroom environment. Students have repeatedly won art awards in many areas including Scholastic, Youth Art Month and exhibited in both the Delaware Art Museum and Biggs Museum of American Art. Many students have won Regional Scholastic and one earned National Scholastic Gold. Her classroom is welcoming and students feel inspired and supported. Her passion is contagious!

Ostafy received the Delaware Middle Level Art Educator of the year in 2018 and will be receiving the Delaware State Art Educator of the Year 2020 this November, nominated by coworkers, administrators and peer educators.

Lindsey has also been invited to exhibit at the juried Brandywine Arts Festival - a festival ranked in the top 100 shows in the country.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Briana Zavadil White

Briana oversees the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery's education programs, which serve the museum's access, teen, youth and family, and student and teacher audiences. Inquiry and object-based learning provide the foundation for education programs at the museum. The Portrait Gallery's programs, gallery experiences, and workshops start with the premise that by reading portraiture, visitors can springboard into rich conversations about biography, history, and art. By modeling learning to look strategies, unique ways to engage in portraiture, the education team hopes visitors will slow down and look closely in order to spark meaning making. Briana holds a B.A. in psychology, with a minor in art history, from the University of Virginia and a M.A.T. with a concentration in museum education from George Washington University.



MAINE

Amy Cousins

Amy Cousins graduated with a BFA in Art Education. She has taught visual arts in the Gorham Schools since 1997. In addition to her regular education responsibilities she instructs alternative education students in integrative arts and outdoor education. Amy is on the Gorham Middle School Leadership Team, is a member of the K-12 Art Committee, and facilitates K-12 curriculum meetings. She also participates in the assessment leadership cohort for the Gorham School District.

Outside Amy's work for the school system she is a presenter at MECA (Maine College of Art) summer workshop on assessment and best practice. Amy regularly host interns from both USM and MECA and in the past presented educational workshops for various organizations such as MAEA, NAEA, MALI (Maine Art Leadership Initiative), New England Secondary School Consortium, and MEGAT (Maine Educators for the Gifted and Talented).

Amy has worked with the Gorham Arts Alliance on several projects and is an arts advocate in our community. In her 'free' time, she loves to ski patrol, backcountry ski, climb, hike and enjoy the company of her two children.



MASSACHUSETTS

Liz Fortin

Lizzie Fortin has taught for 14 years in the Worcester Public Schools; 9 years in Elementary and 5 years in High School, recently moving to an Instructional Coaching position. Lizzie ‘centers’ students by creating an environment where she is able to rapidly develop powerful relationships which deepen engagement and therefore enhance learning.

Lizzie is an advocate for equitable learning environments and outcomes, especially for marginalized humans. She believes all humans should have equitable access to learning. Her work in learning, implementing, and sharing the practice of Universal Design for Learning has impact. She believes - when learners, young and old, have the options necessary for learning, powerful work is possible.

She finds her students and colleagues to be her most powerful teachers. The many connections and relationships have changed her life. The impact of Alejandro, Nancy, Tessa, Micah, Romaine, Hayman, Ava, Nick, Mercedes, Akira, Jose, Enrique, and so many more students, is ‘too much to put into words’. The love, support, and inspiration from Timmary, Lee, Ann, Callie, Patti, Jessica, Alisa, Kathy, Ivonne, Lisa, Jaimee, Val, Christie, Cornelius, Kass, and Shea has made her the educator she is today.



MARYLAND

Gino Molfino

Gino Molfino has served as an artist, teacher, advocate, and leader for the Howard County Public School System for the past twenty years in Maryland. As the current Coordinator of Fine Arts for HCPSS, he has collaborated and assisted with the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of the fine arts program curriculum, assessment materials, and professional learning opportunities, while providing instructional support for preK-12 fine arts teachers.

Gino is a past recipient of a Fulbright-Hays Award to study contemporary Latin American performance art and culture in Mexico City and has twice received the Excellence in Education Teacher Recognition from the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts and the Teacher Recognition Award from the U.S. Department of Education and the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

He is past-president of the Maryland Art Education Association and has collaborated to develop state/national fine arts policies that cultivated innovation in curriculum development and professional learning that honor the teacher as artist, and promote contemporary practices in art-making.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Aimee Piccolo

Aimee Piccolo teaches photography at the Merrimack High School and has accomplished a great deal in a relatively short time. Aimee joined the Merrimack HS faculty in 2017. In two years, she has successfully collaborated in creating an interdisciplinary course in Photography and Chemistry, grown the Photography program, and inspired hundreds of students to love her chosen artistic medium. She and her Chemistry collaborator received \$34,000 in grants from Title IVA, NHSTE, Lions Club, and NHAEA.

Aimee is enthusiastic about finding new ways to inspire student learning and has turned her whole classroom into a giant pinhole camera. She worked with the Mt. Washington Observatory to photograph snowflakes, met with MIT professors to learn techniques for photographing scientific subjects, and invited professionals into her classroom.

Aimee is an active member of the art education community. As Youth Art Month co-chair for NHAEA, Aimee has worked to bring professional development and advocacy to art educators in the state.

Aimee's philosophy: "I believe learning begins with failure, and when we make mistakes we learn. My art room is a safe place where all can fail and try again- try something different. We learn to problem- solve and think creatively. We learn to appreciate the unexpected, be flexible and accepting. We learn to challenge ourselves and to speak constructively. I believe that when you fall, you get back up and keep on going. I believe that failure is not the end, but only the beginning."



NEW JERSEY

Harry Bower

Harry Bower is celebrating 29 years as an art educator in the Toms River Regional School District. He earned his undergraduate degree at Rowan University and Masters at Rutgers University. During his career, he has been awarded Teacher of the Year at both the Elementary and Secondary levels, and was previously the High School Art Educator Award recipient from AENJ.

Bower has been the recipient of several Geraldine Dodge Foundation Grants, and serves the art education community by providing workshops, speaking at conferences, and working with district programs. In addition to his role as art educator, he also currently serves as a board member for the John F. Peto Studio Museum, taking on the role of Curator and Art Committee Chair. He has served as a professional leader on the AENJ board, on the board of his community Island Heights Cultural and Heritage Association, and even as a board member for the Island Heights Board of Education.

His experiences through the Geraldine Dodge Foundation and Fulbright Memorial Foundation have taken him to Japan, and Italy, and throughout the Eastern seaboard from Massachusetts and Vermont to New Jersey and Georgia.

Bower brings his broad cultural knowledge to his teaching enriching both the classroom, workshop and community settings where he is respected and valued by students, peers and community members alike.



NEW YORK

Pat Groves

A graduate of Buffalo State College and Nazareth College, Pat began her teaching career in 1976 as a PreK-8 Shared Service Art Educator for Genesee-Wyoming BOCES, Batavia, NY. She taught full time at Brockport High School from 1986-2007, where she served as department chair and was beloved and highly regarded innovator and leader. In 1996, Pat served in numerous adjunct instructor roles at Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY Brockport, Nazareth College of Rochester, Genesee Community College, and Roberts Wesleyan College. Pat always maintained a commitment to herself as a working artist, and was recognized for her accomplished watercolor and design work.

Committed to art education beyond her school, Pat served NYSATA in numerous roles over the past thirty years, including Conference Co-Coordinator. Pat was an innovator and leader in conference planning. Her commitment to advancing authentic work and contemporary ideology brought world class, relevant, and inspiring keynote speakers. Pat's out-of-the-box thinking and attention to detail have made NYSATA's conference the premier PD opportunity for art educators in New York State.

In addition to her role as Conference Co-Coordinator, Pat served as Layout Editor of the NAEA Award winning NYSATA News, Promotions Chair, Conference Planning Committee & Registrar, NYSATA President, and Co-Chair of Region 2. In 1995 she was named NYSATA Region 2 Art Educator of the Year. She received numerous Special Citations for statewide contributions, including in 2015, the NAEA Marion Quin Dix Leadership Award for her lasting and far-reaching contributions. In 2014, Pat was key to initiation of the NYSATA Past Presidents' Scholarship to support preservice art education students.



PENNSYLVANIA

Jan Riggio

Jan Riggio, a native Pennsylvanian, earned a BS in Art Education at Penn State, and moved to Florida where she earned a Masters Degree and began her career in art education. Jan believes membership in NAEA is important in continually shaping ones teaching practice and reinforcing professional ideals. Riggio claims that it is the challenge of change that fosters strength and growth. “The day-to-day curriculum must reflect the students that we teach. When facing change, embrace the change by asking questions, experiment until there is a fit.”

Jan began offering professional development for teachers while in Florida, and continued the practice when she moved back to PA. In her last few years in Florida, Jan was chair of the art department at Eagles Landing Middle School. In PA, after much research, she drafted the current curriculum guide in use in her school, part of The Bald Eagle Area School District. She has also been a leader in PAEA, developing programs for art educators as Region 4 co-representative.

Riggio is a natural networker and claims that her ideal school environment would include teachers of all disciplines working shoulder-to-shoulder to ensure that students with all types of learning styles are included. In that way, students are sure to reach their potential.

Jan’s artistic practice has earned her the nickname: “Earth Artist”. She paints with earth and other natural minerals. She claims that exposing students to the first artists and cave painting led her to explore the idea of painting with soil in her own artwork.



RHODE ISLAND

Anita Thompson

Born and raised in RI, Anita graduated from Lincoln School in 1989. In High School she majored in art and wanted to attend an art school. Anita graduated from RISD in 1995. After graduation she was planning to pursue illustration in NYC. That dream was placed on hold when she was asked to be a long term substitute at Lincoln. After teaching for 3 months Anita's career plans changed, as all she wanted to do was teach art. In addition to Lincoln, she also substitute taught at Cranston East and Rocky Hill Schools. One year after receiving the substitute position, she was offered a permanent position teaching at Lincoln, where she has happily been since.

Anita's philosophy when it comes to both creating and teaching art is to never be afraid to take risks and fail. "You never know if something, may it be a new media to share with my students, a new approach to curriculum, beginning a master's degree, or a completely different method of painting my personal work, will work if you never give it a try." She loves a challenge and always pushes herself to create new and different curriculum every year so that neither she nor her students ever get bored. She believes that everyone is an artist and if students are given the opportunity to learn about art that interests them, and follow their artistic curiosity, students will achieve success. This success could lead them to follow a path into the visual arts or lead them into a new art related direction.



VERMONT

Rachel Mangan

Rachel has been passionate about art from a young age and continued her curiosity at Keene State College in NH where she graduated with a studio art degree. She currently teaches in an elementary school located in Brattleboro, Vermont, where the artistic community is thriving. She tries to spend as much time inside the art room as she does exploring local community museums and studios with her students. She participates in many extra curricular activities to get kids excited about art and investigate in innovative ways! Rachel finds most of her inspiration from nature and outdoor exploration. Rachel continuously challenges herself and her students to try new things, explore often, and get as messy as possible.



WEST VIRGINIA

Sherri Butler

Recently renewed as a Nationally Board Certified Teacher, this year makes Sherri's 30th year teaching in the, Upshur County Schools, Buckhannon, WV. She has taught visual art at the elementary, high school and now middle level. She has been an active member of WVAEA/NAEA for many years serving as presenter at conferences and on the executive board as secretary of WVAEA. This year Sherri was conference coordinator at the state conference. She has received recognition with elementary and middle level art educator of the year awards at state conferences.

Sherri enjoys working with students, helping them to grow creatively and express their ideas in ways words cannot. In her free time she enjoys painting, quilting and cooking for her family.

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*Thank you and
Congratulations*

Diane Wilkin
NAEA Eastern Region Vice President

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- Important NAEA 2020-21 Dates -

2020 NAEA Summer Leadership

Park City, Utah

July 23-26, 2020



NAEA Board of Directors Nominations

due July 1, 2020

NAEA Awards Information

due October 1, 2020

NAEA 2021 Convention Chicago, Illinois

March 4-6, 2021



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