



TheJoyceFoundation

TheJoyceAwards

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THE JOYCE FOUNDATION HONORS ARTISTIC WORKS IN CHICAGO, CLEVELAND AND DETROIT

*2009 JOYCE AWARDS PROGRAM SUPPORTS MIDWEST CULTURAL
INSTITUTIONS TO COMMISSION NEW WORKS BY ARTISTS OF COLOR*

CHICAGO—The Joyce Foundation is proud to announce the 2009 *Joyce Awards* winners in the Midwest cities of Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit. Since 2003, the *Joyce Awards* program has been the only award exclusively supporting artists of color in major Midwestern cities. This year's outstanding arts organizations will each receive grants of \$50,000 to support new works in dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

Winners in each artistic category include:

- **DANCE: Ravinia Festival** (Chicago) to support “Fondly Do We Hope, Fervently Do We Pray...,” a full-evening dance production commissioned from African-American choreographer **Bill T. Jones**, inspired by Abraham Lincoln in recognition of the Lincoln bicentennial;
- **MUSIC: Detroit International Jazz Festival** (Detroit) to support a new jazz composition that would pay tribute to two Detroit jazz icons: the Guardian Building in downtown Detroit and the music family dynasty of the Jones Brothers by African American bassist, composer, and arranger **John Clayton**;
- **THEATER: Goodman Theatre** (Chicago) to support a new play that draws on the cultural heritage of traditional Jibaro music by Latin American playwright **Quiara Alegría Hudes**;
- **VISUAL ARTS: Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland** (Cleveland) to support an exhibition and commission a series of new works by African American visual artist **Iona Rozeal Brown**.

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“We are proud to honor the talent and vision of these artists and the vibrant cultural institutions that will present these works,” stated Ellen S. Alberding, president of the Joyce Foundation. “On behalf of the Joyce Foundation, we are pleased that our *Joyce Awards* provide us the opportunity to promote such a diverse collection of artistic expression in our region.”

Since its inception in 2003, the *Joyce Awards* has supported cultural institutions in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Award winners have not only presented their works to the institutions’ traditional audiences; they have also worked with community groups, school children, and public art projects. The goal is for these commissions to produce vivid, new works of art that strengthen cultural venues and draw people of diverse backgrounds to experience the rewards of participating in the arts as well as elevate the visibility of creative works by minority artists.

This year’s competition drew 50 entries from around the Great Lakes region. Entries are reviewed by independent arts advisors from outside the Midwest and reviewed and approved by the Foundation’s board of directors. *Joyce Awards* of \$50,000 are made directly to arts organizations and are awarded in dance, music, theater, and visual arts. Each award supports the work of the individual artist as well as significant community engagement efforts. Organizations have up to three years to complete their proposed projects.

2009 Joyce Awards winners are:

DANCE

Ravinia Festival

Bill T. Jones

Ravinia Festival, the oldest outdoor music festival in North America, attracts about 600,000 listeners to some 120 to 150 classical, jazz, musical theater, and other performance events during a three-month summer season. It has hosted jazz legends Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Ella Fitzgerald; musical masters George Gershwin and Stephen Sondheim; classical stars Yo-Yo Ma and Denyce Graves, and popular music icons Tony Bennett, James Taylor, and the Temptations. Ravinia also showcases dance companies such as the River North Dance Company, the Joffrey Ballet and Luna Negra Dance Theater.

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Bill T. Jones is artistic director/co-founder/choreographer/dancer at the Harlem-based Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, recognized as one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the modern dance world. The 10-member company has performed worldwide in over 200 cities in 30 countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Africa and the UK. Jones is the recipient of countless awards and honors and has created more than 100 works for his own company, as well as choreographed works for numerous productions. In 2007, he received a Tony Award and the Obie Award for Best Choreography for the Broadway production *Spring Awakening*.

In September 2008, Ravinia kicked off *Mystic Chords of Memory*, a year-long celebration of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The Joyce Award will support Jones in creating a new dance piece inspired by Lincoln that would be performed by the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company as the highlight and culminating event of Ravinia's year-long celebration. The work is scheduled to premiere on Ravinia's stage September 17, 19 – 20, 2009. Following its debut in Illinois, Jones' company would tour the work internationally.

MUSIC

John Clayton

Detroit International Jazz Festival

Founded in 1980, the Detroit International Jazz Festival has entertained millions of fans with jazz legends such as Herbie Hancock, Dave Brubeck, Poncho Sanchez, and Dianne Reeves. The mission of the Detroit International Jazz Festival is to foster the history and nurture the development of jazz; perpetuate Detroit's significant jazz legacy through educational and collaborative programs; and present a world-class signature event that makes Detroit a tourist destination. Annually, the Festival showcases over 100 local, national, and international artists performing blues, gospel, R&B, and jazz on six stages, presents educational events, parades, fireworks, and rare opportunities to meet the artists over Labor Day weekend.

John Clayton has gained prominence in both the jazz and classical fields. After studying bass under the esteemed Ray Brown, Clayton performed with Count Basie and his orchestra, and as principal bass with the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been commissioned by, among others, the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, American Jazz Philharmonic, Iceland Symphony, Metropole

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Orchestra (Holland), Tri-C Jazz Fest Cleveland, Monterey Jazz Festival, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and the Carnegie Hall Big Band. As a conductor, he has led the Israel Philharmonic, Munich Radio, Northwest Chamber and Iceland orchestras, and numerous professional big bands. Clayton has been nominated for seven Grammy awards, winning a Grammy in 2008 for his work on Queen Latifah's recording *Travelin' Light*, and was bestowed a platinum record for his arrangement of *The Star Spangled Banner* for Whitney Houston. He co-leads both the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and the Clayton Brothers Quintet and is a bass professor at the University of Southern California, Jazz Studies Department. Clayton also serves as artistic director for the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival, for which he received a National Medal of the Arts in 2008, and the Centrum Jazz Workshop in Port Townsend, Washington, and the Vail Jazz Camp.

The Joyce Award will support Clayton in writing a new full-scale concerto grosso for big band and jazz combo as well as a teaching residency in Detroit. Clayton will conduct music workshops for Detroit youth through the Detroit Symphony's Civic Jazz Orchestra and other high school and college musicians in the area, and work closely with the Detroit-based bandleader Scott Gwinnell, a young pianist, trombonist, composer, and arranger, and his 16-piece modern-jazz big band; Gwinnell's band will premiere the commissioned piece at the Jazz Festival with the Clayton Brothers Quintet as the group soloists, on the closing night of the 2009 Detroit Jazz Fest, Labor Day Weekend.

THEATER

Quiara Alegría Hudes Goodman Theatre

Named the country's Best Regional Theatre by *Time* magazine (2003), Goodman Theatre is Chicago's largest not-for-profit theater, internationally recognized for its artists, productions and educational programs since 1925. Artistic Director Robert Falls and Executive Director Roche Schulfer's leadership has earned unparalleled artistic distinction, garnered hundreds of awards—including the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre (1992)—and moved dozens of plays from Chicago to New York and abroad. Central to its commitment to the reinvestigation of classics and new play development is the Goodman's Artistic Collective, including Frank Galati, Henry Godinez, Steve Scott, Chuck Smith, Regina Taylor and Mary Zimmerman.

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Goodman was awarded the first Joyce Award in theater – that work will have its world premiere on Goodman’s stage in April 2009. Goodman is the first organization to receive a second Joyce Award.

Quiara Alegria Hudes grew up in West Philadelphia, playing piano by ear and writing songs, stories, and plays. Today, she is a rising star and is widely recognized as a promising new voice in American theater. Hudes wrote the book for the 2008 Tony Award-winning musical *In the Heights*, and her play, *Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2007.

Hudes earned a bachelor’s degree in music composition from Yale University and an MFA in playwriting from Brown University. She is a resident writer at New Dramatists, and a previous Page 73 Playwriting Fellow. The Joyce Award will support Hudes in writing a new play tentatively titled, *The Jibaro Play*. It would explore the intersection of music, culture, and political revolution in Puerto Rico during the 1930s. Jibaro music is traditional Puerto Rican folk music sung and played at weddings, communal gatherings, and traditional holidays. Hudes plans to develop *The Jibaro Play* out of interviews and conversations with local Latino musicians. It is due to premier at the Goodman Theatre during the 2011 season.

VISUAL ARTS

Iona Rozeal Brown

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland

Founded as the New Gallery in 1968, the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (MOCA Cleveland) produces exhibitions and programs featuring the work of national and international artists, as well as established and emerging artists living in the Cleveland area. MOCA Cleveland is a non-collecting contemporary art museum. It presents an annual schedule of eleven temporary exhibits and series of lectures, workshops, and classes, highlighting artists of all modern art genres. Each exhibition is supported with programs for adults, families, students, and artists.

Iona Rozeal Brown’s paintings are unprecedented mixture of courtesans, geisha and other Japanese subjects and American hip-hop culture. Brown’s interest in this subject was sparked by *ganguro*, a trend in the early 1990s among Japanese teenagers who were infatuated with looking like African American hip-hop stars.

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Intrigued yet disturbed by this practice, Brown began focusing her work on the relationship between Asian (primarily Japanese and Korean) and American hip-hop culture. Recognizable brand names such as Burberry, Adidas, Crystal Champagne, as well as hairstyles and gestures, are taken from their original context and transposed within the visual language of Japanese ukiyo-e prints of the 19th century.

Brown earned an MFA in painting from Yale University in 2002 and a BFA, also in painting, from the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. The Joyce Award will support an exhibition and commission a series of new works by Brown based on a selection of ukiyo-e prints from the permanent collection of the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College (Ohio). Brown will also oversee the development of another body of work during an on-site artist residency with local advanced art high school students who, working directly with Brown, will conceive and create a series of painted wooden screens. Other high school students will create a short documentary film about the work of Brown, the collaborative creation of the painted wooden screens, and other exhibition outreach programs. The film and student artwork will be on view at MOCA Cleveland during Brown's exhibition.

The exhibition is slated to run January 29—May 16, 2010. This will be Brown's first Midwest exhibition.

For more information on applying for a 2010 *Joyce Awards* or to learn more about the Joyce Foundation, please visit www.joycefdn.org or call 312.782.2464.

Based in Chicago, the Joyce Foundation supports efforts to strengthen public policies in ways that improve the quality of life in the Great Lakes region. Cultural funding supports projects that bring diverse audiences together to share common cultural experiences and encourage more people to see the arts as integral parts of their lives. The Foundation also makes grants in the areas of Education, Employment, Environment, Gun Violence Prevention, and Money and Politics.

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