

## The 60<sup>th</sup> Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, the Original announces 2019 Award Winners

The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair presents awards of excellence and originality to ten artists. The Ann Arbor Street Fair, which is the original of the four concurrent fairs held each July in downtown Ann Arbor, is located on East Washington, Ingalls Mall, and North University. The ten awards were presented on Friday morning to the following Street Art Fair artists:

Marvin Blackmore	Durango, CO	Ceramics
David Bryce	Great Barrington, MA	Sculpture
James Cole	Plainfield, IL	Photography
Robert Farrell	Venice, FL	Metal
Andy Fletcher	Stoddard, WI	Painting
Nicario Jimenez	Naples, FL	Mixed Media, 3D
Joachim Knill	Hannibal, MO	Painting
Amanda Outcalt	Norfolk, VA	Mixed Media, 2D
James Pearce	Peoria, IL	Furniture
Mick Whitcomb	Springfield, MO	Mixed Media, 3D

### 2019 On-Site Awards Jurors

#### *Tony Roko*

Tony was the first Natural American Citizen in his family, which migrated from a refugee camp in Rome. At the age of 19, Tony went to work on the assembly line of Ford Motor Company and on his breaks, he would sketch. Management took notice and asked if he'd like to be part of a plant beautification project to boost the workers' morale. Tony has since moved from factory floors to gallery walls. His recent accomplishments include commissions for Lady Gaga, Jay Leno, and Ford's Centennial celebration of the Assembly Line. He has been featured in Ford's international "Go Further" campaign and his work is in the permanent collection of Michigan's Holocaust Memorial Center. He has also been voted "Best Fine Artist" of Detroit by HOUR Detroit Magazine for the past 5 consecutive years. In addition to creating his own artwork, Tony has a passion for aiding other aspiring artists, particularly children whose talents would go unnoticed because of the circumstance of their environment. This passion inspired Tony to create the Art Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to Fostering Creative Minds. The Art Foundation provides art expression opportunities to youth in Detroit and the surrounding area, with a focus on engaging children who are members of at-risk and vulnerable populations. A portion of the proceeds from all of RoKo's work goes to the Art Foundation to provide art experiences for kids in Detroit and the surrounding area.

#### *Vera Grant*

Since 2012, Grant has been the director of the Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art at the Hutchins Center at Harvard University. Previously, she was executive director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard and the associate director of the African and African American Studies Program at Stanford University (2001-2007).

Grant has curated numerous exhibitions, including most recently "Harlem: Found Ways" (Summer 2017). She holds an M.A. in modern European history from Stanford and a B.A. in history from the City College of New York, CUNY. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Hamburg in Germany, a fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership, a fellow at the Studio Museum in Harlem, and a Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow.

She has lectured and published widely on race and visibility, in 20th century American and German culture.

Currently, Grant serves as the Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs and Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at University of Michigan Museum of Art.

#### *Nawal Motawi*

Nawal Motawi founded Motawi Tileworks more than 20 years ago. A University of Michigan art school graduate with a restless spirit and an interest in applied arts, Nawal moved to Detroit to learn tilemaking at Detroit's storied Pewabic Pottery. She returned to Ann Arbor after a few years and began making her own tiles in a garage studio and selling them from a stand she rented at the local farmers' market.

Today, Nawal is still designing and making tiles in Ann Arbor. Her companies, Motawi Tileworks and Rovin Ceramics, employ more than 30 people. Her company utilizes Toyota-Style Production and practices an international workplace culture.

Recently, Motawi tiles have been featured in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and Dwell Magazine.