



## **PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Anna Weldon, Director of Communications  
(408) 998-2787, ext. 217 / [aweldon@artscouncil.org](mailto:aweldon@artscouncil.org) / [www.artscouncil.org](http://www.artscouncil.org)

### **ARTS COUNCIL SILICON VALLEY ANNOUNCES NEW ARTIST LAUREATE PROGRAM - New Program to Recognize and Reward Artistic Excellence and Impact of Individual Artists in Silicon Valley -**

**San Jose, CA, August 18, 2011** – Arts Council Silicon Valley today announced that it is launching the Artist Laureate program to recognize the region’s finest creative artists and reward them for their serious commitment to developing their art forms. The purpose of the Artist Laureate program is to underscore the important role individual artists play in contributing to a vibrant and creative community. Based on the previous framework of the Arts Council’s Artist Fellowship program, the Artist Laureate program was created to not only recognize mid-career artists, but emerging artists who have less than two years professional experience in visual, literary, or performing arts. It will replace the Artist Fellowship program. Selected Artist Laureate recipients will receive a \$4,000 cash award in one of five artistic categories. As part of this new program, the Arts Council will also select one artist honoree for the Arts Legacy prize, a \$4,000 cash award for lifetime achievement. Applications for the 2012 Artist Laureate program are due on November 14, 2011. The 2012 Artist Laureates will be announced in March 2012. For further information on how to apply visit the Arts Council’s website at [www.artscouncil.org](http://www.artscouncil.org).

“For more than 20 years the Arts Council has recognized and rewarded individual artists for their artistic excellence and commitment to enriching our community with their exhibits, performances, presentations, and service,” said Nancy Glaze, Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley. “Our new Artist Laureate program brings an enhanced level of support to individual artists in this region by acknowledging and rewarding the work of early career artists, and reflects our support and programs for individual artists to best serve the needs of our artistic community.”

#### **AWARDS AND CATEGORIES**

Artists may apply to be nominated to compete in one of five different categories. One \$4,000 Artist Laureate prize will be awarded in each of four categories, as well as the Emerging Artist category. The award categories are as follows:

- ***On The Wall:*** Art that is affixed to, hung on, or projected on a wall or flat panel/screen. (e.g. drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, 2-dimensional mixed media, photography, film/video/animation ...)

- more -

- **Off The Wall:** Free-standing or suspended art that can be viewed from all angles. (e.g. sculpture of all media, kinetic/mobile, installation ...)
- **On Stage:** Art that is performed by an artist for an audience, on a formal or informal stage (e.g. dancing, acting, mime, spoken word, instrumental/vocal performance, conducting ...)
- **Off Stage:** Art that is created or developed by an artist offstage, backstage, or pre-performance (i.e. music composition, choreography, stage directing, stage/set/costume design, all written literary art forms ...)
- **Emerging Artist:** Restricted to early career artists (all genres) who have history of less than two years professional experience in visual, literary or performing arts

Please note that the Arts Legacy prize is not part of this nomination/application process.

*The Artist Laureate program is funded by a "Partners" consortium of funders including the County of Santa Clara, California Arts Council, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.*

#### **ABOUT ARTS COUNCIL SILICON VALLEY**

Arts Council Silicon Valley is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering arts and culture throughout the region. We bring leadership and support to the artists and arts organizations that form the cultural framework of our community. Since 1982 we have distributed nearly \$26 million in funding to the arts. Arts Council Silicon Valley is an official partner with the California Arts Council and the County of Santa Clara. For more information on Arts Council Silicon Valley go to:

[www.artscouncil.org](http://www.artscouncil.org).

-- ### --