



*Judicial Gallery & Mural Reception*

*9.28.07*



## Judicial Gallery and Mural Reception A Date to Remember

- \* September 28, 1925 – Construction begins on Courthouse
- \* September 28, 1999 – Construction begins on Courthouse Square Project
- \* September 28, 2007 – Courthouse Square Project, judicial gallery & mural reception

Today we recognize the jurists who served on the Circuit Court, by unveiling the completed gallery of judicial portraits. We also pay tribute to artistic contributor Stefan Davidek and family, as we receive the newest mural installation in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor courtroom of Judge Duncan M. Beagle.

<b>Courtroom Location</b>	<b>Judicial Medallions</b>	<b>Time</b>
Judge Duncan M. Beagle [fifth floor]	Judge Philip C. Elliott Judge Valdemar L. Washington Muralist Stefan Davidek	12:15 – 12:45
Judge Robert E. Weiss [fifth floor]	Judge Anthony J. Mansour	12:45 – 1:00
Judge John A. Gadola [fifth floor]	Judge John W. Baker Judge Earl E. Borradaile	1:00 – 1:15
Judge Geoffrey L. Neithercut [third floor]	Judge Edward D. Black Judge Clifford A. Bishop Judge Stephen J. Roth Judge Stewart A. Newblatt Judge Thomas C. Yeotis	1:15 – 1:30
Judge Richard B. Yuille [third floor]	Judge Fred W. Brennan Judge Paul V. Gadola Judge Donn D. Parker Judge Donald R. Freeman	1:30 – 1:45
Judge Archie L. Hayman [third floor]	Judge James S. Parker Judge Elza H. Papp Judge Philip Elliott Judge Louis D. McGregor Judge Ollie B. Bivins, Jr. Judge Harry B. McAra Judge Robert M. Ransom	1:45 – 2:15

Reception immediately following - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Courthouse

Courthouse Square Project  
*Preserving the Past and Building for the Future*

The *Courthouse Square Project* was only a dream for many years. Both judges and interested citizens alike, saw the majesty of the 1926 Courthouse begin to decay from years of neglect. The theater for much human drama, had taken on the appearance of a tired center stage.

Momentum for a restoration and building project began to change in the late 1990's. In December 1998, the first visible phase of the *Courthouse Square Project* was unveiled. A small grouping of historical photographs were compiled and hung in ceremonial fashion. Only a few people attended the event, but there was a spark ignited. The second step was then taken, the original courtroom furniture was reviewed for possible restoration.

The seat of justice for Genesee County was once again destined to be regaled as a place of majesty, to command respect for what takes place within its courtrooms and for its rightful place of honor as the location for the civilized resolution of disputes.

From 1998-2003, the *Courthouse Square Project* brought restoration and construction. There were many hours of planning, operating the court under adverse conditions and chronicling the events for future generations. The final re-dedication of the 1926 Courthouse featured an extravaganza for an entire weekend. There were dramatic productions in courtrooms, vintage automobiles on the lawn, public tours and an official ribbon cutting.

The Genesee County Courthouse is the gem of downtown Flint. It is the site of three historical markers, listed on the national and state registers of historically significant locations and is the proud custodian of Civil War monuments and cannons that once guarded Washington, D. C. It is also home to monumental public art projects.

We pause today to honor those who have served as judges *and* those who have made our surroundings both educational and inspiring, through the gift of art.

We can rightly boast about the beauty of the courthouse and take pride in its restoration. The lasting legacy, however, is what takes place in the courtrooms and for this we honor those who served.

***Judicial Gallery and Mural Reception Publication 2007***  
***Content and Design:***  
***Barbara A. Menear    Janet E. Patsy***  
***Photos: Lyle Boyer***

## Judicial Portrait Gallery

John W. Baker  
1957 - 1977

John W. Baker was born in Flint, graduated from Flint Central High School, attended Flint Junior College and graduated from George Washington Law School. After receiving a Master of Law degree from the National Law School in 1939, Baker returned to Flint and practiced law with Donn Parker and George Stevens. All three eventually became judges. Baker was also a circuit court commissioner. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II. Baker was a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Flint from 1947-1957, at which time he was elected to the Genesee County Circuit Court (1957-1977). After retirement, he continued his judicial career by serving on the Michigan Court of Claims. Baker was very active in civic and community affairs. He was a nationally known wood sculptor, an avid figure skater, skier, sailor and fisherman. His son, John R. Baker, has been a member of the State Bar for thirty nine years.



Clifford A. Bishop  
1939 - 1952

Clifford A. Bishop served as Prosecutor for Genesee County and was a member of the law firm of Bishop & Blackney, with offices in the Dryden Building in downtown Flint. He was born in Argentine Township and lived in Genesee County his entire life. He graduated from Williamston High School and from the University of Michigan Law School. He began a law practice with Homer J. McBride, as his partner. He later practiced with William W. Blackney, former county clerk. Judge Bishop was a Republican and from a youth, active in local political affairs.



Ollie B. Bivins, Jr.  
1972 - 1982

Ollie B. Bivins, Jr. was born in Flint, Michigan and graduated from Flint Northern High School. He attended Fisk University and Boston University School of Law. He served in the United States Navy during World War II. He joined the staff of the Genesee County Prosecutor in 1965 and became chief trial attorney in 1966. Bivins was the first African-American to hold several key positions. He was appointed City of Flint Municipal Law Judge in 1968 and then a 68<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge in 1969. He was appointed by Governor William G. Milliken to the Genesee County Circuit Court in 1972 and became the first African-American to hold that position. He remained on the bench until 1982.

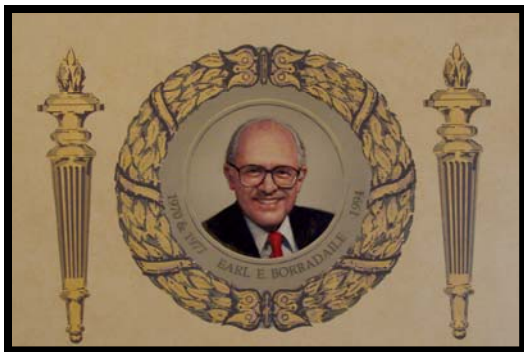


Edward D. Black  
1917 - 1939



Edward D. Black was the first judge to serve in Courtroom No. 3. It was the largest courtroom, with spectator seating occupying nearly the entire width of the building. Judge Black was known for stiff sentences, particularly related to liquor violations. In 1926, The Flint Journal wrote an article about a \$1,000 fine having been imposed against a female by Judge Black, after liquor was found during a raid. It was the largest fine for a liquor violation ever assessed by the circuit court. He died in office in 1939.

Earl E. Borradaile  
1970, 1977-1994



Earl E. Borradaile was born in Union County, Indiana and graduated from Short High School in Liberty, Indiana. He attended college at Miami of Ohio and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. He was affiliated in private practice with Paul Karr and William Wumkes, with a practice emphasis in real estate and divorce. Borradaile was a Probate Court Judge for six years, in addition to his years of service on the circuit court. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Michigan Constitutional Convention of 1963. He continues to be an active member of the Davison United Methodist Church, Kiwanis Club, the Davison AARP and other local organizations that champion the rights of senior citizens.

Fred W. Brennan  
1917 - 1929



Fred W. Brennan was a judge when the 1926 Genesee County Courthouse was opened. He was assigned to Courtroom No. 2 and was said to have tried the first case in the new facility. He died in office. He served as the Genesee County Prosecutor in 1897, the year that the Genesee County Bar Association was founded. He later served as president of the GCBA. In an article from The Flint Journal, commemorating the opening of the new courthouse, Judge Brennan commented that the new facility was far superior to the previous courthouse. Judge Brennan said, "In those days, there was but one man on the county clerk's staff, and that was the clerk himself. There were two court officers, and one circuit judge. There was a big stove in the courtroom, and the two men used to quarrel as to which one should stoke and do the manual labor while the other took care of the jurors. One would build up a hot fire and both would fall asleep until the place became unbearable."

Philip Elliott  
1938-1960

Philip Elliott was born in Garner, Iowa, graduated from Grinnell College (Iowa) and Harvard Law School. Before practicing law, he taught high school for a few years in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Prior to locating in Flint, he migrated to Bismarck, North Dakota and was the first Commissioner of the Workers Compensation Commission. His brother, attorney Arthur Elliott, settled in Flint and encouraged his brother to do so. Philip Elliott moved to Flint in 1926. He was engaged in the private practice of law and was an assistant prosecutor, first under Prosecutor Charles Beagle, continuing under Andrew Transue and Ralph Freeman. Elliott taught Sunday school and gardening was his hobby. He served his country during World War I, was wounded and received a purple heart. He was nominated to run for the Michigan Supreme Court in 1940, but did not succeed in receiving the nomination.



Philip C. Elliott  
1967 - 1991

Philip C. Elliott was born in Flint, graduated from Flint Central High School, Michigan State University and Harvard Law School. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After the war, he returned to private practice and also served as a circuit court commissioner. His father, Judge Philip Elliott, left the bench in 1960 and joined his son in practice. Jerry Winegarden, Sr. was also affiliated with Elliott and his father. Elliott was a Probate Court Judge for two years, beginning in 1964. When the number of circuit court judges was increased, he ran for an open seat and was elected. After leaving the bench, he worked for the prosecutor for nearly two years.



Donald R. Freeman  
1967-1997

Donald R. Freeman was born in Detroit. He graduated at the age of 15 from Pontiac High School. His engineering and law degrees were from Wayne State University. Freeman was elected to the Flint Municipal Court in 1958, moving to the circuit bench in 1967. He was a strong advocate for the historical restoration of the courthouse. In the 1980s he spearheaded efforts to place the county courthouse on the state and national register of historic places. The courtroom to which he was assigned was the only original courtroom that remained true to its appearance. Freeman co-founded the Sam Duncan Memorial Fund and chaired several community organizations. He served on the circuit bench for nearly thirty years.



Paul V. Gadola  
1929 - 1960



Paul V. Gadola was born in Corunna, Michigan and attended Owosso High School. In 1904 he played on the only Owosso High School football team to win a state championship. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. In 1915, his law practice was interrupted by service in the Michigan National Guard and in World War I. He was appointed to the bench in 1929 and served thirty one years, the longest serving circuit court judge in the history of Genesee County. Judge Gadola presided over the 1937 Sit Down Strike case, arguably the most important strike in American labor history. Out of deference to their service, Judge Gadola only hired disabled veterans to serve as court officers in his courtroom. Judge Gadola had two sons who also served in a judicial capacity, Judge Paul V. Gadola, U. S. District Court, Eastern Division and Judge Thomas L. Gadola, Genesee County Probate Court. His grandson, John A. Gadola is currently a Genesee County Circuit Court Judge and grandson, Michael F. Gadola, serves as counsel to the Michigan Supreme Court.

Anthony J. Mansour  
1967 - 1973



\* portrait appearance differs to compliment courtroom design

Anthony J. Mansour was born in Nazareth, Palestine. He graduated from Flint Central High School and Flint Junior College. Mansour attended the Detroit College of Law and graduated in 1950. While in private practice, he was affiliated during various periods with Harold Draper, Norm Ehrnst and Fred Salim. He was the first judge to serve in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor middle courtroom, which was constructed from space originally dedicated for office use. Mansour is credited with establishing the framework which modernized the office of the circuit court assignment clerk. He is known as a stalwart in the American Arab Community. Mansour is the founder of the American Arab Heritage Council. In 2004, he published, "The Peddler to Merchant Generation" - a history of the local American Arab Community.

Harry B. McAra  
1973-1986



Harry B. McAra graduated from Flint Central High School and received his undergraduate and law degree from the University of Detroit. He served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. In the 1950s he entered into private practice with the firm of Devine, McAra and Palmer. One of his notable clients was Royal Globe Insurance, which insured General Motors Corp. McAra also served as the Fenton Township Attorney and was past president of the Michigan Judges Association. His community activities included board membership of the Sam Duncan Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Foss Avenue Baptist Church. His son, Michael D. McAra, is a retired 68<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge and son, Bernard L. McAra has been a member of the State Bar for over thirty seven years.

Louis D. McGregor  
1960 -1964

Louis D. McGregor was born in Linden, Michigan. He taught school to work his way through the Detroit College of Law. He was elected to the Circuit Court and served from 1960 -1964. Judge McGregor was the first attorney from Genesee County to be appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals (1964-1975). He also ran for the Michigan Supreme Court in 1962. He was the founder and first president of the Flint Optimist Club. He also served as president of the Michigan United Conservation Club and the National Wildlife Federation. Judge McGregor died at the age of 92. Upon the death of his wife, Barbara McGregor, the Genesee County Bar Foundation was named as the beneficiary of an endowment in honor of Judge Louis D. McGregor. Continuing legal education seminars, for members of the Genesee County Bar Association, will be underwritten with these funds. His son, Robert McGregor, is a retired judge (Florida).



Stewart A. Newblatt  
1962 - 1970

Stewart A. Newblatt was born in Detroit, Michigan and attended Millersburg Military Institute in Millersburg, Kentucky. From 1946 -1947 he served in the United States Army in the Philippine Islands as an agent of the Criminal Investigation Division. In 1950 he graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. Newblatt was in private practice from 1953-1962 and was affiliated in practice at various times with Charles and Robert White, Howard Grossman and Harry Newblatt. He served as a Genesee County Circuit Judge from 1962-1970. At the time, he was the youngest person to be tapped for the 7th Judicial Circuit Court bench. He left the bench and returned to private practice until 1979. Then, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan. His son, David J. Newblatt is currently a Genesee County Circuit Court Judge.



Elza H. Papp  
1965 - 1972

Elza H. Papp was born in Rankin, Pennsylvania and graduated from Flint Central High School. She attended Cleveland Law School and was admitted to practice in 1945. In 1947, she became the first female assistant prosecuting attorney in Genesee County. During her career, Papp was a law consultant to the Standard Oil Company and the associate editor of a legal publishing company. She was elected to the Circuit Court in 1965, the first female to hold that position. Papp was the second female Circuit Judge in the State of Michigan. She retired in 1972.



Donn D. Parker  
1960-1966



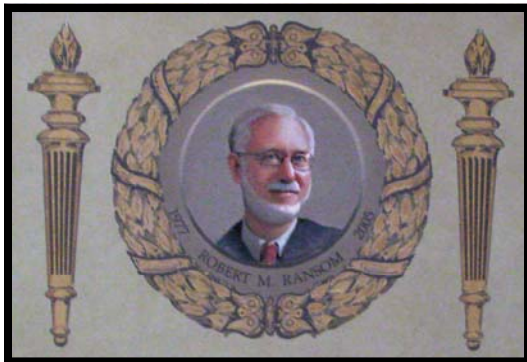
Donn D. Parker was born in the Otisville area. He received his undergraduate and law school degrees from the University of Michigan. His family owned a local business, Parker Fuel & Gas. Parker was a circuit court commissioner, a position which was eliminated in the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Before taking the bench, his law partner was George Stevens. After leaving the bench, he was affiliated in the practice of law with Irving Nelson. He primarily practiced in the area of real estate law.

James S. Parker  
1925 - 1937



James S. Parker was born in Corunna in 1872 and attended Hillsdale College. He attained the rank of Colonel in the Third Regiment of Michigan, during the Spanish American War. Parker studied and read the law as preparation for admission to the State Bar of Michigan. In 1894, he was admitted to practice. In 1899 he joined Edward S. Lee and started the firm of Lee & Parker. He also held several other political offices. He was the Flint City Attorney, a circuit court commissioner and Prosecuting Attorney from 1909 - 1912. He was the first judge to serve in Courtroom No.1. His son, Hugh Parker, was also a lawyer, as well as grandson, Allan "Duke" Parker, and great grandson, Patric Parker. For thirty five years, his portrait was concealed under the ceiling line when suspended ceilings and air conditioning were installed.

Robert M. Ransom  
1977 - 2005



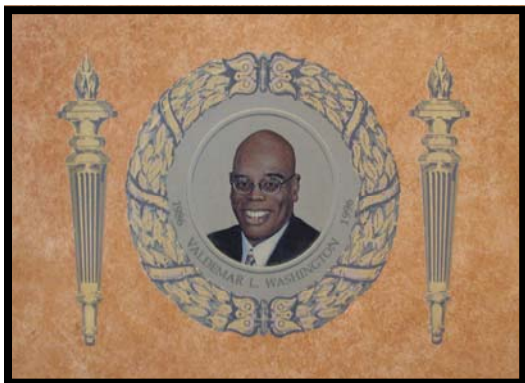
Robert M. Ransom was born in Flushing and graduated from Flushing High School. His undergraduate studies were at Mott Community College and Adrian College. He graduated from the Detroit College of Law in 1962. Ransom spent nearly three decades on the bench after being appointed by Governor Milliken in 1977. He presided for 16 years as the Chief Judge. During his tenure he held a leadership role in the Courthouse Square Project, oversaw the establishment of the first drug court program within the county and was the Executive Chief Judge of the Genesee County Judicial Council for nine years. He also served as president of the Michigan Judges Association, a member of the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals and as a member of the Congress of State Drug Court Associations, National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Stephen J. Roth  
1952-1962



Stephen J. Roth was born in Hungary. He attended Flint Public Schools after which time he worked his way through the University of Notre Dame. He became a naturalized citizen in 1933 and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. Roth was elected Prosecutor in 1941. From 1943-45, he served in the United States Army and attained the rank of second lieutenant. He served as Attorney General of the State of Michigan from 1948-1950. He was appointed to the circuit bench and then elected to the position in 1952. In 1955 he was defeated for a position on the Michigan Supreme Court. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the U. S. District Court for the Eastern Division of Michigan. He died in 1974.

Valdemar L. Washington  
1986 - 1996



Valdemar L. Washington attended Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and received his undergraduate degree from the Honors College at Michigan State University. While at MSU, he was nominated by the University for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. He received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1976. He was appointed to the bench in 1986 and served ten years. While serving as Chief Judge, Washington was the driving force behind the adoption of the current case management software. After leaving the bench, he formed SETTLEmate, a company focusing on dispute resolution and returned to private practice. Washington has also served as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Michigan-Flint and Wayne State University. In addition to his business enterprises, he holds several patents.

Thomas C. Yeotis  
1971-1998



Thomas C. Yeotis was born in Flint, graduated from Flint Central High School, attended Flint Junior College and graduated from Michigan State University. He received his law degree from Wayne State University. Yeotis was in private practice from 1957-1967, at which time he became a Judge of the Flint Municipal Court. In 1968 he was appointed Probate Court Judge and elected to the Circuit Court in 1971. On June 7, 1984, *The Flint Journal* featured an article about Judge Yeotis and the day that 200 well-wishers accompanied him to Tiger Stadium for "Judge Tom Yeotis Day." Yeotis was the first president of the Greater Flint Area Sports Hall of Fame, a founder of the Bruin Club, and many other community based organizations. He was a member of the inaugural family division bench in January 1998. His son, Dean T. Yeotis, has been a member of the State Bar for ten years.



## Muralist Stefan Davidek

(Biographical sketch)

Stefan Davidek was born in Flint, Michigan, the son of an immigrant Czechoslovakian trade painter and guildsman. As a youth he exhibited his father's artistic inclinations. He received artistic instruction at the Flint Institute of Arts, the Art Student's League in New York and at Cranbrook Academy in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. During his career he has been known as a painter, muralist, printmaker and mosaic artist.

Mr. Davidek is a lifelong resident of Genesee County and a major contributor to the local artistic scene. His works are exhibited at several Michigan museums including the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Flint Institute of Arts and the Hackley Art Gallery, (Muskegon Museum of Art). There are additional works displayed at Albion College, the Women's League at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and McLaren Hospital.

The artist has established himself as an accomplished muralist. His commissions include the murals at Zehnders and Saint Lorenz Lutheran church in Frankenmuth and Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint. Notably, he was commissioned to paint two murals in the Genesee County Courthouse.

The Davidek mural now located in Courtroom Number One was re-created in the same compositional format as the original mural. There are three panels that note the lumbering, agricultural and manufacturing industries that drove the local economy.

The fifth floor courtroom mural is a diverse montage of vignettes, people and events that have shaped the history of Genesee County. Special detail was given to the various cities and towns that comprise our community. The panoramic history can be traced from the period when the Native Americans were the only occupants, the era of European settlers and the highlights of the local industrial revolution. The mural also depicts many community leaders and milestones.

Numerous awards and prizes have been bestowed upon Davidek. These include the Founders Prize from the Flint Institute of Arts, the Lou R. Maxim Prize from the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Purchase Award, Alma Print Show. He is also a founding member of DAS, an artistic group that features serigraphs of famous Flint landmarks and locations.

Davidek is the patriarch of his own family of artists. Collectively they have created the fifth floor courtroom mural. He has expressed the importance of maintaining a long-standing tradition where buildings are decorated with public art intended to inspire and instruct. Their mural creations are a tribute to the undeniable ability of art to serve as a powerful record of people, time and place.

*Muralist Stefan Davidek*





## Muralist

### Edgar Spier Cameron

(Biographical sketch)

When the Courthouse Square Project began in 1998, an intriguing mystery was waiting to be solved. The creator of the two original murals was unknown. No obvious signatory marks or records identifying the artist could be found. An extensive search of historical records were undertaken in an effort to identify the muralist. Many sources were contacted; the State Archives in the Michigan Historical Center, newspaper accountings of the courthouse opening, art institutes, museums and historical societies. These all proved to be unfruitful. Coincidentally and quite unexpectedly, an art conservationist from Chicago contacted the court and inquired whether there were Edgar Cameron murals in the Courthouse. A quick trip to the library to reference Who's Who in American Art, and an internet search for similar works confirmed that Cameron painted the murals.

The painter Edgar Spier Cameron (1862-1944), was born in Ottawa, Illinois. As a young man, he worked in a glass factory and a machine shop. He received his earliest art training during two summers at the Chicago Academy of Design and much of his early artistic activity revolved around the Chicago Society of Artists. In 1882, he traveled to New York City to study at the Art Student's League. Shortly thereafter, he traveled to Paris to study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and the Julian Academy. There, Cameron met the artist Marie Gelon, a Parisian and fellow student, who became his wife.

The public exhibition of Cameron's work came initially in 1888 at the Paris Salon. In the 1890s, Cameron exhibited works at the Chicago Art Institute. During this time period he was also an art critic for the Chicago Tribune.

Cameron's subject matter ranged from portraits to landscapes, from genre to historical themes. Some of his paintings resulted from his travels to Belgium, Brittany, Paris and Venice; but American history and landscapes also held great fascination for him.

A portion of Cameron's artistic career was spent on mural commissions. He was one of the artists who worked on the Chicago Fire Cyclorama for the 1893 World's Fair. His Illinois murals include the Illinois Supreme Court Library in Springfield representing the ideals of Justice, Precedent, Jurisprudence and Knowledge. In 1911, he completed a cycle of large oil paintings for Chicago City Hall depicting the twelve epochs and events in the history and evolution of Chicago.

Cameron also received several awards for his works over the years. France bestowed upon him the Paris Expo Silver Medal (1900) and the Palmes Academiques (1920). At the Art Institute of Chicago, he received the Grower Prize (1909), the Butler Prize (1914), the Carr Prize (1917) as well as the Chicago Galleries Association (1927).

*Muralist Edgar Spier Cameron*





**Portrait Artist**  
**Gregory Davidek**

(Biographical sketch)

Gregory Davidek of New York, New York is the artist of the newly created judicial portraits. In total, 14 portraits have been created for the Courthouse Square Project. He spent his early years in the Genesee County area and attended Mott Community College. He graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art with a bachelor's degree in painting and printmaking. His graduate studies were at Virginia Commonwealth University.

He is the nephew of Stefan Davidek and his early work experience includes twelve years with his uncle.

Gregory Davidek has exhibited at numerous galleries in New York City and Brooklyn, New York. The awards he has received include Studio Fellowship (Cite International des Arts, Paris); Juror's Award in Painting (Virginia Museum of Arts) and the Best in Show, Award of Excellence (Michigan Foundation for the Arts Competition).