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The annual awards banquet was held on June 11 in Jackson, Mississippi, at the Mississippi Museum of Art to honor the 2022 MIAL award recipients. Museum Director Betsy Bradley welcomed MIAL and guests to the museum.



Mississippi Museum of Art Director Betsy Bradley

The **Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award** was bestowed upon two very worthy and talented individuals, **William Dunlap** and **Kenneth Holditch**.

Dubbed "The Art Ambassador" by the late, legendary Julia Reed, **William Dunlap** has distinguished himself as an artist, arts advocate, and educator during a career that has spanned more than three decades. His paintings, sculpture, and constructions are included in prestigious collections such as Metropolitan Museum of Art, Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Mississippi Museum of Art, Lauren Rogers Museum, and in United States Embassies throughout the world. A native of Mathiston, Dunlap has an undergraduate degree from Mississippi College and an MFA from the University of Mississippi. He currently maintains studios in McLean, Virginia; Mathiston; and Coral Gables, Florida.

Born in Ecu, Mississippi, **Kenneth Holditch** grew up in Clarksdale, Vicksburg, and Tupelo, Mississippi. He attended Southwestern University and graduated in 1955 with honors in English. He received his MA and PhD in English from the University of Mississippi. His was the first PhD granted at Ole Miss. He taught in the English department at the University of New Orleans from 1964 until his retirement in 1993. Holditch is author of *Tennessee Williams and his Women*, a play which was chosen for dramatic readings at Lincoln Center in New York, and he has written several books. He was one of the founders of the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival in New Orleans and in Clarksdale. He created and led the Literary Walking Tour of the French Quarter beginning in 1974. He is co-founder of the William Faulkner Society.



Hands of the Artist by Mitchell Gaudet



2022 Award Winners

(Pictured above, top row, left to right)

- **Angie Thomas** won the Youth Literature award for *Concrete Rose*, a prequel to her first novel, *The Hate U Give*. Thomas holds a BFA in creative writing from Belhaven University. Thomas was born and raised in Jackson.
- **Ashleigh Burke Coleman** won the Photography award for *Hold Nothing Back*, an exhibit of her work at Fischer Galleries in Jackson. Born in the mountains of Virginia and reared in South Carolina, she now lives in rural Mississippi.
- **Joshua Nguyen** is a Vietnamese American writer from Houston, Texas, and a PhD Student at the University of Mississippi, where he also received his MFA. Nguyen's winning collection of poetry *Come Clean* is also the recipient of the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry.
- **Becky Hagenston** received the Fiction award for *The Age of Discovery and Other Stories*. Hagenston grew up in Maryland and currently serves as a professor of English at Mississippi State University. She has won many awards including a 2020 Pushcart Prize and two O. Henry Awards.
- **Teresa Nicholas** is the winner in MIAL's newest category, Life Writing, for her loving tribute to her mother, *The Mama Chronicles*. A native of Yazoo City, Nicholas graduated from Swarthmore College and had a career working for Crown Publisher. She lives in Jackson and is currently enrolled in the MFA Creative Writing Program at MUW.
- **W. Ralph Eubanks** won the Nonfiction Award for *A Place Like Mississippi: A Journey Through a Real and Imagined Literary Landscape*. Raised in Mount Olive, Eubanks earned a BA from University of Mississippi and an MA from University of Michigan. A writer and essayist, Eubanks work focuses on race, identity, and the American South.
- **William Dunlap** received the Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award. A native of Webster County, Dunlap received his BS in art from Mississippi College and an MFA in sculpture and printmaking from the University of Mississippi.

(Pictured above, bottom row, left to right)

- **Steve Rouse** received the Music Composition (Classical) award for *Where Beauty Persists*. A native of Moss Point, Rouse received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and his doctorate from the University of Michigan. Rouse spent his career at the University of Louisville. His works have been performed and heard in airplay around the world.
- **Jennifer Torres** won the Visual Arts award for her largest public art commission, *Garden Boats for Osage Park*, permanently installed at Osage Park in Bentonville, Arkansas. A native of New Jersey, Torres lives in Hattiesburg where she has her studio and teaches sculpture as a tenured professor at the University of Southern Mississippi.

- **Christone “Kingfish” Ingram** received the Music Composition (Popular) award for *662* named for the area code for his home region of Clarksdale. A guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter, Ingram made his stage debut at age fifteen at Clarksdale’s Ground Zero Blues Club. Musicians and critics alike agree that Ingram is the defining blues voice of his generation.
- **Kenneth Holditch** received the Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award. Born in Ecu, a graduate of Tupelo High School and Southwestern at Memphis, Holditch received his MA and PhD in English from the University of Mississippi. A renowned Tennessee Williams scholar, Holditch taught at the University of New Orleans.
- ***Highway 61* hosted by Scott Barretta** received a Citation of Merit. A native of northern Virginia and currently living in Greenwood, Barretta has taught blues courses at Millsaps College and the University of Mississippi. *Highway 61* debuted on MPB in 1984 and soon moved to the Center for the Study of Southern Culture where it is still produced but aired on MPB.
- ***Grassroots* hosted by Bill Ellison** received a Citation of Merit. Ellison, a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a degree in Communications, has hosted *Grassroots* on MPB since 1992. *Grassroots* is dedicated to playing and promoting bluegrass, folk and acoustic music.
- ***Look Away, Look Away* produced and directed by Patrick O’Connor** received a Special Achievement Award. O’Connor received a BA in English from Santa Clara University and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Arkansas. O’Connor stated, “I produced the film to capture the battle over Mississippi’s state flag and to try to understand why it engendered such strong, visceral emotion in people, whether they loved it or hated it.”

Awards Banquet Photos



Mistress of Ceremonies Sarah Story



Jean and Tim Medlev visit with Tom Howorth



2022 MIAL award recipients in attendance to receive their awards.



Dr. David Beckley visits with Jeanne Luckett



MIAL incoming Vice President Laura Howell and Frank Howell



The Grand Hall was filled to capacity.

MARK YOUR 2023 CALENDAR – the 44th ANNUAL MIAL AWARDS BANQUET, JUNE 3, 2023, IN

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<http://www.ms-arts-letters.org/membership.html>

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Check the appropriate membership category:

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Contributions to MIAL are recognized by the IRS as tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

*Levels recognized in newsletter, awards banquet program booklet, and website.

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Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award Nomination MIAL members are encouraged to make nominations to honor the artistic achievements of living Mississippians (current residents or former ones with continuing, significant ties to the state). Judges will consider only work shown, published, or performed in **2022**. Members may nominate more than one individual in any category, and MIAL members may self-nominate. Please make additional copies of this form if needed. **Nominations should include a complete address and e-mail** (if applicable). Cookbooks, edited works, and self-published books will not be accepted for nomination. Similarly, images on personal websites and social media platforms are not eligible for nomination of the Visual Arts and Photography awards. All nominations are subject to board approval.

Only MIAL members may nominate. Not a member? Please consider joining.
Membership form on page 7 or join online: <https://www.ms-arts-letters.org>

Award Categories:

FICTION (novel, short story collection, etc.)

LIFE WRITING (biography, autobiography, memoir, and travel writing)

NONFICTION (research-based books, including academic studies, popular history, and journalism)

POETRY Eligible are up to 15 poems published individually or in a collection (some poems in the collection may have been published earlier).

YOUTH LITERATURE (writing or illustration) Eligible are fiction or nonfiction works including picture books, chapter books, middle grade, and young adult.

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CLASSICAL (song, opera, composition, instrumental music, etc.) Submit evidence of initial performance or publication. Submit a digital or hard copy of the score. Evidence of initial performance or publication may also be submitted in digital or hard copy format.

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CONTEMPORARY (blues, country music, jazz, rock, etc.) Submit the commercial recording. At least five original compositions must be presented.

PHOTOGRAPHY (Film or digital; in color, black and white or both; a published book, a public exhibition or other public presentation) Eligible are thematic bodies of work, or up to 15 individual images. Submit nomination by emailing a PDF of images of nominated work or mailing a thumb drive containing images of the nomination. Printed photographs will also be accepted.

VISUAL ARTS (painting, sculpture, drawing, print, graphic arts, etc.) Eligible are thematic bodies of work, or up to 15 individual images. Submit nomination by emailing a PDF of images of nominated work or mailing a thumb drive containing images of the nomination.

Deadline: Nominations must be postmarked on or before **January 15, 2023**. Published books will be supplied, so it is not necessary to send books with your nomination. Please send the nomination form with supporting material, if needed, to the appropriate category chair listed below.

POETRY

Mary Thompson
 221 Clark Street
 Clarksdale, MS 38614
 marymckthompson@gmail.com

**MUSIC COMPOSITION
 (Contemporary)**

James G. Thomas, Jr.
 310 Dogwood Dr.
 Oxford, MS 38655
 jgthomas@olemiss.edu

**MUSIC COMPOSITION
 (Classical)**

Donzell Lee
 1000 ASU Drive #175
 Alcorn State, MS 39096
 donzell@hotmail.com

YOUTH LITERATURE

Ebony Lumumba, Ph.D.
 Jackson State University
 Dept. of English
 1400 John R. Lynch St,
 Campus Box #17600
 Jackson, MS 39217
 j00946241@jsums.edu

NONFICTION

Ted Atkinson
 1000 East Broad Street
 West Point, MS 39773
 Tba34@msstate.edu

PHOTOGRAPHY

JoAnne Prichard Morris
 801 Arlington Street
 Jackson, MS 39202
 jprichmo44@gmail.com

VISUAL ARTS

George Bassi
 Lauren Rogers Museum of Art
 565 North Fifth Avenue
 P. O. Box 1108
 Laurel, MS 39441
 gbassi@LRMA.org

FICTION

Marion Barnwell
 850 Fairview Street
 Jackson, MS 39202
 mgbarnwell@bellsouth.net

LIFE WRITING

Scott Naugle
 554 East Second Street
 Pass Christian, MS 39571
 naugle@live.com

AWARD CATEGORY: _____ MEDIUM:_____

TITLE OF WORK: _____

FIRST SHOWN/PUBLISHED/PERFORMED: _____

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

NOMINEE'S ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: HOME/CELL _____ WORK _____

E-MAIL _____

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY: _____

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE NOMINEE'S MISSISSIPPI CONNECTION: _____

NAME OF MIAL MEMBER MAKING NOMINATION:

NOMINATOR'S ADDRESS: _____

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THREE NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTED

The MIAL Board of Governors recently elected three new members. Elected were Dr. Alphonso Sanders, Cleveland; Robert Ivy, Columbus; and Alehandro Wooten, Hattiesburg.

Dr. Alphonso Sanders is a retired educator, having served as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO; Chair of Fine Arts and Director of the B. B. King Recording Studio, Mississippi Valley State University; and Jazz Band Director and Founding Director of the Delta Music Institute (DMI), Delta State University.

Robert Ivy is the recently retired CEO of the American Institute of Architects. Prior to joining the AIA, Ivy was Editor-in-Chief of the journal, *Architectural Record*. He is the author of numerous publications on architects and architecture, including the biography, *Fay Jones, Architect* (2001). Ivy and his wife, Holly, have recently moved from Washington, DC back to their home in Columbus.

Alehandro Wooten, a native of Meridian, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an Emphasis in Three-Dimensional Design and Sculpture. He is the Executive Director of the Hattiesburg Arts Council, having previously served for six years as the Arts Facilitator for the council. He has enjoyed a twenty-seven-year art-related career, including solo exhibitions and large-scale public commissions.

We welcome these talented and qualified members to our Board of Governors.



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MIAL Board of Governors met in September at the Mississippi Museum of Art for our first “hybrid” meeting.



MIAL Board of Governors member Talamieka Brice chaired the MIAL poster display at the Mississippi Book Festival. MIAL posters of fifteen years of winners lined the halls of the Capitol Building.

**IN MEMORIAM
 Previous Winners and Friends**

Marion Brown, 1997 Photography, Jackson
 Stephen Charles Edds, Jackson
 Sam Gilliam, 2005 Visual Arts, Washington DC
 Sheila Stott Gourlay, 2002 Visual Arts, Oxford
 Colby Kullman, Oxford
 Harriet DeCell Kuykendall, Jackson
 Madeleine Monica McMullan, Lake Forest, Illinois
 David Wharton, 2013 & 2017 Photography, Oxford
 Elise Varner Winter, Jackson