



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Arts Council Silicon Valley Announces Recipients of 2012 Artist Laureate Awards *Robert Kelley, Founder and Artistic Director of TheatreWorks, Named Legacy Laureate for Lifetime Achievement***

**San Jose, CA, February 15, 2012** – Arts Council Silicon Valley today announced the recipients of Artist Laureate awards for their ground-breaking contributions to the arts in Santa Clara County. This year's recipients are: Kelly Detweiler, painter, resident of Santa Clara, ("On the Wall" category); Chris Eckert, sculptor, resident of San Jose, ("Off the Wall" category); Barbara Day Turner, music director/conductor for the San Jose Chamber Orchestra, resident of San Jose, ("On Stage" category); Elizabeth McKenzie, writer, resident of Santa Cruz, ("Off Stage" category); and Jeffrey Lo, playwright/director/producer, resident of San Jose, ("Emerging Artist" category). In addition, Menlo Park resident, Robert Kelley, the founder and artistic director of TheatreWorks, has been named Legacy Laureate for his lifetime artistic achievement and community impact.

For over 21 years the Arts Council has annually awarded cash prizes to exceptional individual artists to enable them to continue to pursue their creative work. This year, \$5,000 was awarded in each of the artistic categories. 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. Artists were selected by a panel of experienced judges based upon the artistic quality and originality of work, community impact within Santa Clara County, and professional development by demonstrating continued exploration of their art form. As recipient of the Legacy Laureate award, Robert Kelley also received a \$5,000 cash prize. Arts Council Silicon Valley is the only funding agency south of San Francisco that awards artists unrestricted grants for career accomplishments.

"The Arts Council is delighted to once again recognize the region's finest creative artists and reward them for their serious commitment to developing their art forms whether they are emerging, mid-career or established artists," said Nancy Glaze, Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley. "Our Artist Laureates have aptly demonstrated their artistic excellence and commitment to enriching our community with their exhibits, performances, presentations, and service. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the lifetime artistic achievement of Robert Kelley, who has guided TheatreWorks to its well-deserved standing as a nationally recognized performing arts organization and a true pillar of excellence in the Bay Area arts community."

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## ARTIST LAUREATE AWARD CATEGORIES

The selected artists applied to be nominated to compete in one of five different categories. One \$5,000 Artist Laureate prize was awarded in each of four categories, as well as the Emerging Artist category. The Legacy Laureate recipient was selected by an internal committee. 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 ...)
- **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

## ABOUT THE 2012 ARTIST LAUREATE RECIPIENTS

### ROBERT KELLEY – LEGACY LAUREATE

Robert Kelley is a Bay Area native and Stanford University graduate. He founded TheatreWorks in 1970 and has been its Artistic Director throughout its growth into one of the nation's leading professional theatres. He has directed over 150 TheatreWorks productions, including many world or regional premieres, and has received the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Paine Knickerbocker Award for lifetime achievement, eight BATCC Awards for Outstanding Direction, and two Garland Awards for directing from Back Stage West Magazine. Kelley has been a guest director for the California Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. His recent TheatreWorks productions include *The Secret Garden*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, and *The 39 Steps*. [www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org)

### KELLY DETWEILER – ON THE WALL

Kelly Detweiler has been a part of the South Bay art scene for the past 30 years. He has taught at Santa Clara University for this entire period of time, 12 years as department chair. He has shown his work extensively in the region and has exhibited in Europe and the Far East. His work is in many private collections as well as the collections of the de Saisset Museum, the Triton Museum, Villa Heiss Museum (Germany), Microsoft Collection (Mountain View), Skowhegan Collection (Maine), and Nelson Gallery Collection (Davis, CA). This year he received the Joseph Bayma, S. J. Scholarship Award from the College of Arts And Sciences at Santa Clara University to honor his sustained research. In the next academic year he will be on sabbatical working on a new series of paintings to be exhibited in Korea. Detweiler received his BA from California State University at Hayward and his MFA Degree from UC Davis. [www.kellydetweiler.com](http://www.kellydetweiler.com)

### CHRIS ECKERT – OFF THE WALL

Chris Eckert is an artist working in Silicon Valley, California. His fastidiously crafted Art Machines use automation as a means of personal expression. His sculptures have been shown throughout the United States and beyond including venues in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston, and Linz, Austria. His machine *Auto Masochist* was recently featured on Nippon Television (a Japanese television network). Eckert received his BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from Santa Clara University and his MFA from San Jose State University. [www.ChrisEckert.com](http://www.ChrisEckert.com)

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### **BARBARA DAY TURNER – ON STAGE**

Barbara Day Turner is the founder and music director of the San José Chamber Orchestra and an ardent advocate for new music. Since the orchestra was founded 20 years ago, she has commissioned and premiered more than 110 new works. Under her artistic directorship, San José Chamber Orchestra has been awarded three ASCAP/League of American Orchestras Awards for Adventurous Programming. Maestra Day Turner is also the music administrator and conductor of the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre where she has been resident conductor for the past 10 seasons and where she, most recently, led an all Gershwin concert as well as productions of Don Giovanni and South Pacific. She is in great demand as a guest conductor locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.  
<http://sjco.org/SJCO/Staff.html>

### **ELIZABETH MCKENZIE – OFF STAGE**

Elizabeth McKenzie is the author of a collection, *Stop That Girl*, short-listed for The Story Prize, and the novel *MacGregor Tells the World*, a *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Library Journal* Best Book of the year. Her work has appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and the *Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and recorded for NPR's *Selected Shorts*. She was an NEA/Japan US-Friendship Commission Fellow in 2010 and is Editor of the *Chicago Quarterly Review*. McKenzie received her MA from Stanford in English and Creative Writing. [www.macgregortells.com](http://www.macgregortells.com)

### **JEFFREY LO – EMERGING ARTIST**

Jeffrey Lo is the founding artistic director of San Jose's 06 Ensemble where he wrote and directed *A Kind of Sad Love Story*, *Barcelona Love Song* and *The Chase*. His recent theater credits include serving as the assistant director for *Superior Donuts*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, and *The Pitmen Painters* at TheatreWorks, *The Last Romance* at San Jose Rep, *The Language Archive* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival as well as various work on *Turn of the Screw*, *Private Eyes*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Sister Cities*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Marvin's Room* and *Cat's Paw* with Dragon Productions Theatre where he is the Artist-In-Residence. He is also the producer of the New Play Development Factory which highlights and develops the work of local Bay Area playwrights. Jeffrey received his BA in Theater and Literary Journalism from UC Irvine where he is the founding artistic director emeritus of The Pipeline Players.

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### **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. To do this we provide grants and capacity-building services and align with key partners who share our strategic vision. Since our inception in 1982, we have distributed more than \$25 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)