



### ***Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards Program***

The International Sculpture Center (ISC) is a not-for-profit, international arts organization founded in 1960 to serve the needs of sculptors, collectors, arts professionals and people with a commitment to the field of sculpture. The ISC's programs include the International Sculpture Conferences, education and recognition programs, *Sculpture* magazine, *Insider* newsletter (professional employment, commissions and exhibition opportunities for sculptors), *On Record* (announcements of members' accomplishments), and the award-winning Web site, [www.sculpture.org](http://www.sculpture.org).

The mission of the International Sculpture Center is to advance the creation and understanding of sculpture and to recognize its unique and vital contribution to society. The ISC pursues this mission by expanding public understanding and appreciation of sculpture internationally, demonstrating the power of sculpture to educate, effecting social change, engaging artists and arts professionals in a dialogue to advance the art form, and promoting a supportive environment for sculpture and sculptors.

The International Sculpture Center's **Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards program**, (Hereafter referred to as the Student Awards program.) is an annual program that recognizes undergraduate and graduate excellence in sculpture. Faculty sponsors at participating universities and art schools around the world nominate students for the award.

Since the ISC Student Awards Program was founded in 1994 winners have gone on to professional success including the winning of public sculpture commissions and teaching positions at major universities. The ISC Student Awards program has been substantiated as a major program for the advancement of young careers by the participating institutions and by the success of the winners. The program's success is based on its positive impact, year after year, on the emerging sculptor's profession. In the last 4 years the nominees have increased by 200% resulting in a record total of over 340 faculty-sponsored nominees, representing over 120 college and university sculpture programs in the 2004 Student Awards Program.

### **Program Details**

The faculty at undergraduate and graduate colleges, universities or art schools nominates students to participate in the Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards program. A panel of leaders in the field of contemporary sculpture then selects the winners.

The program has become highly competitive, and while nominees must be students currently enrolled in a BA, BFA or MFA program, in recent years recipients have tended to be second year MFA candidates. There are no fees to participate in the Student Awards program, however, educational institutions must be ISC University/Institutional Members and may submit up to three student nominations. Along with their application, students submit images, their current resume and an artist's statement.

**The goals of the program are to:**

- Provide all student nominees with the skills pertinent to the professional art world
- Provide all students nominees with real world experiences in competing in the art world
- Educate all student nominees about timely and relevant topics in the contemporary art field they are preparing to enter.
- Provide visibility on a national and international level for award winning students.
- Recognize young sculptors and to encourage their continued commitment to the field of sculpture.

**Meeting the goals:**

All student nominees will gain the experience of competing in the contemporary art world by being involved in the process of applying for the Student Awards Program. The winners of the program will receive the following benefits:

- Inclusion in a Fall/Winter Exhibition at [Grounds For Sculpture](#) in Hamilton, New Jersey from October 7, 2006 through January 7, 2007.
- A photograph of their work and a brief biography (to include the name of the faculty sponsor and the nominating institution) published in *Sculpture* magazine and on the ISC's Website.
- A chance to win a Residency in Switzerland and study with world-renowned sculptor Heinz Aeschlimann.
- A one-year ISC membership, which includes subscriptions to both *Sculpture* magazine and the ISC members-only supplement *Insider*, which includes job listings, calls for artists and other opportunities for sculptors, and *On Record* (announcements of members' accomplishments).
- A color catalogue published by Grounds For Sculpture of the award winning sculptures.
- Free listing in *Portfolio*, ISC's online registry of sculptors found on our website, [www.sculpture.org](http://www.sculpture.org)
- Insurance of their art work during the group exhibition (to be covered by Grounds For Sculpture), and reimbursement of shipping expenses.
- Discounts on ISC sponsored conferences, art periodicals, supplies and services.
- An award certificate and letter from the ISC.

This program reflects the ISC's conviction that the nomination and application process for the competitive awards program can be an important factor in the preparation for the professional life of an artist. When students are nominated for the Awards program, they participate in an application process that will help equip them to apply for other professional competitive programs. Experience over many years has demonstrated to the International Sculpture Center that the students who have been nominated for the program are better prepared to seek out and follow through on other professional opportunities. Emerging artists who become knowledgeable about the application process for competitive sculpture programs while they are still students are those who are subsequently better able to identify opportunities, evaluate and use effectively the application process to further their respective career goals.

The careers of all the nominated students are dramatically accelerated by the recognition and exposure that their participation in the program provides. Even if they are not selected for the ISC Student Award, the honor of being nominated and the subsequent application process can be a great confidence builder while teaching them critical professional skills needed to be a successful artist.