

The Brink

A new award for early-career artists in Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia

The Brink award is a \$12,500 non-restricted biennial award established by John and Shari Behnke, longtime Henry Art Gallery benefactors and Seattle arts supporters, to be given to an emerging visual artist working in Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia. The award is intended to recognize and encourage visual artists whose early work shows unusual creativity and originality and holds clear promise of expressing new ideas and perspectives over the long term. The recipient will be given a solo exhibition at the Henry, and a work of his or her art will be acquired for the museum's collection.

Eligibility

An artist's eligibility may be defined by the completion of an academic degree within the last five years or some other significant professional or artistic milestone, subject to the judgment and discretion of the selection committee. Evidence of some professional achievement is required as a demonstration of the artist's commitment, but the artist does not need to possess an extensive record of accomplishments (exhibitions, critical reviews, commissions, grants, residencies, etc.) to be eligible. The artist may be of any age and may be under-recognized by peers, curators, or critics. The artist must currently work in Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia.

Selection Committee

The first award recipient will be selected by a committee of eight:

John and Shari Behnke (1 vote total)

Sylvia Wolf, Director, Henry Art Gallery

Elizabeth Brown, Chief Curator, Henry Art Gallery

Sara Krajewski, Associate Curator, Henry Art Gallery

Christina Ritchie, Director, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver

Harrell Fletcher, Portland artist

Joe Park, Seattle artist

The selection committee will review the nominated artists' materials in early 2009 and conduct studio visits with a short list of finalists during March 2009. The award winner will be announced April 17, 2009. Following discussion with the recipient, the dates of the first

Brink award exhibition at the Henry will be announced. The show will open in fall 2009 or later.

Nominations

Nominations will be accepted from arts professionals working in Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. Nominations for the 2008-09 award must be received by October 20, 2008. Each nominator may nominate only one artist. Only complete nominations will be considered. Nominators must provide a complete CV for themselves and a letter, not to exceed two pages, emphasizing the nominee's merits and promise. The nominator must provide complete and accurate contact information for the artist being nominated. Please provide both postal and email addresses (when available). The selection committee will ask all nominated artists deemed eligible to provide 10-15 projectable digital images on a CD and/or up to 5 minutes of video/audio work on DVD representing his or her career to date, and a CV or biography. Electronic submissions should be sent to thebrink@henryart.org.

Nominations may also be sent by post or FedEx to:

The Brink
Henry Art Gallery
Box 351410
University of Washington
15th Ave NE and NE 41st St.
Seattle, WA 98195

Timeline

Call for nominations	September 22, 2008
Deadline for nominations	October 20, 2008
Artists contacted; submissions requested	November 14, 2008
Selection committee reviews materials	March 2, 2009
Studio visits completed	April 3, 2009
Award announced	April 17, 2009

Please contact **Misa Jeffereis** (misaj@henryart.org or 206.221.3611) in the curatorial department for more information.