

Winner of the Alma Schapiro Prize

ICA&CA Announces D. Jeffrey Mims

D. JEFFREY MIMS, PAINTER AND MURALIST of Southern Pines, North Carolina, is the winner of the ICA&CA's second biannual Alma Schapiro Prize. The Alma Schapiro Prize is awarded to advance the career of an artist recipient and to foster the continuity of knowledge of the classical tradition as a vital aspect of contemporary culture around the globe. This prize alternates years with the Rieger-Graham Prize for classical architecture and planning, and is made possible by a permanent Institute endowment granted by the Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund.

Both prizes allow a three-month affiliated fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, the premier American overseas center for independent study and research in the fine arts and humanities. The total award includes Academy fees, travel allotment, and modest expense stipend. Jeffrey Mims' three month stay will begin in the fall of 2009.

Mims said, "The creation of the Alma Schapiro Prize has introduced a new chapter in the history of the American Academy in Rome, and it is an honor to be selected as the recipient for 2009. I hope to use this period in Rome not only to enrich the direction of my own work in fresco and mural painting, but also to encourage at every opportunity a more cohesive intellectual discourse with the many kindred spirits who share this renewed momentum in classical painting, sculpture, and architecture."

Born in North Carolina in 1954, Mims attended the Rhode Island School of Design and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. In 1976, he was awarded an Elizabeth T. Greenshields Foundation grant to further his traditional training and in the early 1980s Mims studied in Florence with fellow native North Carolinian, muralist Benjamin Long.

Over the following decade, Mims maintained studios in Italy and North Carolina, during which time he undertook a series of large works, including a fresco for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Glendale Springs, North Carolina; an altarpiece for Saint David's Episcopal Church,

Baltimore, Maryland; and murals for Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama. In 1984, Mims received an Arthur Ross Award in Painting for his collective work to date and, notably, the Holy Trinity fresco.

Based on the principles of the Arthur Ross Award, "excellence and integrity in the application of classical ideals," Mims Studios, a School of Fine Art, opened in Southern Pines, in 2001. The school offers a multi-year course of instruction in the methods and values of classical realist drawing, easel painting, and the creation of murals.

Jacob Collins, founding director of the ICA&CA's fine arts division called the Grand Central Academy of Art, Institute trustee, and Schapiro Prize jury chairman says, "Jeffrey Mims

has been at the forefront of the revival of classical art for the last 20 years. He has made great contributions as an artistic leader as well as a teacher. His school, Mims Studios, plays an important role in the training of young classical artists."

Paul Gunther, President of the ICA&CA adds, "I am grateful to Jacob Collins and his fellow jurors for the decision made, despite the fierce competition from classical artists at work across the country today. I know that both Mims' own work as well as his commitment to teaching will be duly enhanced at the Academy among committed creative trailblazers of many disciplines both artistic and scholarly."

The Alma Schapiro Prize is open to United States citizens who are at least 21 years of age. A formal Bachelor of Fine Arts or Master of Fine Arts degree is not required, although some rigorous training and career accomplishment in painting or sculpture tied in expression and technique to contemporary classicism are essential for competitive applications. Details are available at www.classicist.org. The next application deadline will fall in November 2010.



D. JEFFREY MIMS IN HIS STUDIO, 2009

