



Michigan Art Education Association Art Educators of the Year 1964-2024 Honor Roll

In 1964 the Michigan Art Education Association began to recognize fellow professionals by choosing an Art Educator of the Year:

1964 Alma Goetsch	Michigan State University
1965 *	
1966 Katherine Ux	Central Michigan University
1967 Vernon Bobbit	Albion
1968 Mildred Helms	Midland
1969 Helen Gordon	Detroit
1970 Tom Larkins	University of Michigan

In 1971 the Art Educator of the Year Award was divided to reflect all levels of art education. In a given year, up to a total of six recipients were honored.

1971 Art Koskinen	Flint
1972 Richard Gorski	Northern Michigan University
1973 Charles Fensch	Eastern Michigan University
1974 Sara Jane Venable	Lansing
1975 Louis Payment	Spring Lake
1976 Ed Jacomo	Alma College
1977 Katherine E. Keillor	Muskegon
1978 Ruth Beatty	Ann Arbor
1979 John Nash	Flint
1980 Judy Avitts	Flint
1981 Konrad Holzworth	Sturgis
1982 Craig Bishop	Battle Creek
1983 Julius Kusey	Rochester

1984 marked the return of our current structure of awarding the honor to one recipient. MAEA Art Educator of the Year Award:

1984 Charlotte Ambrose	Sparta
1985 Chris VanAntwerp	Lowell
1986 John VanHaren	Eastern Michigan University
1987 Ed Manning	Lincoln Schools
1988 Roberta Ameen **	National Mine School, Marquette County
1988 Deanne Peterson**	Monroe
1989 Denise Sorenson	Traverse City
1990 Linda Culver	Grand Rapids Public Schools
1991 Marilou Carr Woodbury	Lakeview Public Schools
1992 Roberta Price	Dexter Schools

Award Footnotes and clarification:

* No MAEA record of an award recipient

** Co-recipients

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1993 Robert Fionda	Romeo Community Schools
1994 Madeline Milidonis-Fritz	Gaylord Community Schools
1995 Harvey Goldstein	Farmington Public Schools
1996 Marcia Blackman	Three River Community Schools
1997 William Harmon	Farmington Community Schools
1998 Diane Kordich	Northern Michigan University
1999 Mary Park	Detroit Public Schools
2000 Ron Frenzen	Tecumseh Public Schools
2001 Craig Hinshaw	Lamphere Public Schools
2002 Sally Allan	Saginaw Public Schools
2003 Christa Wise	Saugatuck Public Schools
2004 Suzanne Butler-Lich	Northview Public Schools
2005 Julia Tomaro	Berkley Public Schools
2006 Gail Bohner	Brighton Area Schools
2007 Cindy Ziegler Smith	Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
2008 Heidi Irvine Mattarellamicke	E. Lansing Holt Public Schools
2010 September Buys	Greenville Public Schools
2011 Amy Vander Pol	Grand Rapids Christian
2012 Kim Cairy	Saginaw Township Schools
2013 Jennifer Hurrle	Newaygo Public Schools
2014 Melissa Hronkin	Houghton Portage School District
2015 Cindy Todd	Kendall College of Art and Design
2016 Kerry Shadbolt	Williamston Community Schools
2017 Sharon Stratton	Fennville Public Schools
2018 Tricia Erickson	Northview Public Schools
2019 Adrienne DeMilner	Kentwood Public Schools
2020 Erica Davis-Hernandez	Rochester Community Schools
2021 Le Tran	Kentwood Public Schools
2022 Tanya Lockwood	Northview Public Schools
2023 Roger Drabant	Fraser Public Schools
2024 Nathan Kukla	Northview Public Schools
2025 Emily Miller	Rockford Public Schools

From 1971-1983 the Art Educator of the Year Award was divided by educational levels.

Elementary Art Educator of the Year:

1971 Julius Kusey	Rochester
1972 Pat Haslett	Ypsilanti
1973 Joan Beaver	Ann Arbor
1974 Margo Flower	Ann Arbor
1975 Patricia Smith	Midland
1976 Judy Lytle	Flint
1977 Martha Stilec	Wayne
1978 Michael Friend	Rock
1979 John Prusak	Wayne
1980 John Fowls	Port Huron
1981 Jerry Thompson	Grand Ledge
1982 Monica Zender	Gwinn
1983 Thelma Trostle	Wyoming

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1983 Delores Daniewski	Burt Elementary
2002 Cinda Shantz	Saginaw
2003 Lynn Olson Schatzle	Farmington
2004 Suzanne Butler-Lich	Northview Public Schools
2005 *	
2006 Gail Trapp Bohner	Brighton Area Schools
2007 Cindy Ziegler Smith	Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
2008 Claudia Stieber	Roseville School District
2009 Diane Brown	Bay City School District
2010 Colleen DeSanto	Bay City Public Schools
2011 Carolyn Steenland	Tri County Schools, Newaygo
2013 Joni Siler	Bronson Community Schools
2014 Melissa Hronkin	Houghton Portage School District
2015-2016 *	
2017 Michelle Reile	Portage Public Schools
2018 Donna Emerson	Portage Public Schools
2019 *	
2020 Erica Davis-Hernandez	Rochester Community Schools
2021 Taina Mantey	Britton Deerfield Schools
2022 Lani Warner-Sarlow	Walled Lake Consolidated Schools
2023 Amy King	Rochester Community Schools
2024 Alison Schmidt	Greenville Public Schools
2025 Emily Miller	Rockford Public Schools

Middle Level Art Educator of the Year:

1971 John Nash	Flint
1972 Steve Kober	Okemos
1973 Elaine Kolasa	Ann Arbor
1974 Marilyn Hoeks	Wyoming
1975 Luther Hale	Saginaw
1976 Robert Czeresznye	Wayne
1977 Pat Vartanian	Wayne
1978 Wendy Sample	Dearborn
1979 *	
1980 Madelaine Conboy	Ann Arbor
1981 Beverly Inbody	Flint
1982 Tessa DiPierre Vorro	Lansing
1983 Phyllis Swonk	Ann Arbor
2002 *	
2003 Mary Miller	Coopersville
2004 William Morrison	Sault Ste. Marie
2005 Julia Tomaro	Berkley
2006 *	
2007 Janice Cramer	Battle Creek
2008-09 *	
2010 September Buys	Greenville Public Schools
2011 *	
2012 Kim Cairy	Saginaw Township Schools
2013 Jennifer Hurrle	Newaygo Public Schools

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2014 Rich Guimond	Rudyard Area School District
2015 Janine Campbell	Byron Center Community Schools
2016 Michael Orlando	Birmingham Public School District
2017 Carrie Jeruzal	Pentwater Public Schools
2018 Tamara Draper	Zeeland Public Schools
2019 Joyce Knight-Coyne	St. Mary Catholic in Royal Oak
2020 Annie Howard	Adrian Public Schools
2021 Kelcey Coveyou	Harbor Springs Public Schools
2022 Jane Montero	Dexter Community Schools
2023 Illya Tolbert	Detroit Public Schools
2024 Rachel Jensen	A2 STEAM@Northside, Ann Arbor
2025 Sarah DeKett	Traverse City Area Public Schools

Secondary Art Educator of the Year:

1971 Sister Jean G. Geyman	Detroit
1972 Louis Payment	Spring Lake
1973 Dave Hoff	Freemont
1974 Charlotte Ambrose	Sparta
1975 Patrick M. Foye	Dearborn
1976 Robert Curtis	Wayne
1977 Jan Watson	Dearborn
1978 Craig Bishop	Battle Creek
1979 Konrad Holzworth	Sturgis
1980 Chris Van Antwerp	Lowell
1981 Ed Jacomo	Grosse Pointe
1982 John Hartom	Bloomfield Hills
1983 Marian Stevens	Detroit
2002 Jean Lash	Onsted
2003 Christa Wise	Saugatuck
2004 Lois Parsell	Vassar
2005 D'Andra Clark	Western
2006 *	
2007 Janice Propst	Ottawa Schools
2008 Heidi Irvine Mattarellamicke	E. Lansing Holt Public Schools
2009 Claudia Stieber	Roseville School District
2010 Diane Heath	Rochester School's Stoney Creek High School
2011 Amy Vanderpol	Grand Rapids Christian
2012 Linda Hooker	Madison Public Schools
2013 *	
2014 Cyndi Koppelman	Saline Public Schools
2015 *	
2016 Kerry Shadbolt	Williamston Community Schools
2017 Sharon Stratton	Fennville Public Schools
2018 Tricia Erickson	Northview Public Schools
2019 Adrienne DeMilner	Kentwood Public Schools
2020 Melissa Wilson	Lake Orion Community Schools
2021 Le Tran	Kentwood Public Schools
2022 Tanya Lockwood	Northview Public Schools
2023 Roger Drabant	Fraser Public Schools

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2024 Nathan Kukla
2025 Keith Rayner

Northview Public Schools
Lakeview Public Schools

Supervisor of the Year:

1971 Ruth Beatty	Ann Arbor
1972 Judy Avitts	Flint
1973 Sue Price	Wayne
1974 Marian Andros	Kalamazoo
1975 James Jennings	Detroit
1976 Jules Trattner	Detroit Public Schools
1977*	
1978 Arlene Waltonen	Kalamazoo
1979 *	
1980 Maury frost	Flint
1981 Doris Miller	Kalamazoo
1982 Carol Alexander	Detroit
2002 Sally Allan	Saginaw
2003 *	
2004 Loraine Cowe	Battle Creek
2005 Dennis Inhulsen	Holly Area Schools
2006 *	
2007-2025 *	

Higher Education Educator of the Year:

1971 Ed Jacomo	Alma College
1972 Joan Otis	Ypsilanti
1973 Charles Fensch	Eastern Michigan University
1974 David Logan	Michigan State University
1975 Victor Croftchik	Central Michigan University
1976 Judy Loeb	Eastern Michigan University
1977 Elaine Godfrey	Dearborn
1978 Cyril Miles	Highland Park Community College
1979 Chester Alkema	Grand Rapids
1980 Murray Douglass **	Wayne State University
1980 Freda Harrington **	Wayne State University
1981 Helen Bonzelaar	Calvin College
1982 Tom Larkins	University of Michigan
1983 Arthur Park	Wayne State University
2002-05 *	
2006 Thomas A. Oakley	Jackson Community College
2007-08 *	
2009 William Charland	Western Michigan University
2010-11 *	
2012 Linda Tyson	Oakland University
2013-2014 *	
2015 Cindy Todd	Kendall College of Art and Design
2016-22 *	
2023 Dr. Cam McComb	Eastern Michigan University

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** Co-recipients

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2024 Dr. Amy Ruoff
2025 *

College for Creative Studies

Emeritus Art Educator of the year:

Note: 2017 - switched name from Retired Art Educator of the Year to Emeritus Art Educator of the Year

2010 Julius Kusey	Rochester
2011 Madeline Milidonis-Fritz	Gaylord
2012-14 *	
2015 Michael Phillips	Detroit
2016 *	
2017 Robert Curtis	Dearborn
2018 *	
2019 Julia Tomaro	Adrian
2020-23 *	
2024 Tammy Noiro	
2025 Christine Hesch	

Student Memorial Scholarship recipients:

1996 Mary Van Able	Northern Michigan University
1997 Su Doman	Eastern Michigan University
1998 Julie Spencer	Western Michigan University
1999 *	
2000 Julie Horning **	Western Michigan University
2000 Renee Tocco **	Central Michigan University
2001 Theresa Hutchison	Western Michigan University
2002 Richard Jacobi	Wayne State University
2003 Onunwa Iwuagwu	Grand Valley State University
2004 Shanda Theis	Wayne State University
2005 Candice Wu	Michigan State University
2006 Brian Cook	Kendall / Ferris State University
2007 Alicia Rose Laeder,	Adrian College
2008 Meghan Collins	Michigan State University
2009 Sarah Sciba	Kendall College of Art and Design, Ferris State University
2010 Rena Busuttill	Ferris State University, Kendall School of Art and Design
2010 Christopher Bruce	Ferris State University, Kendall School of Art and Design
2011 Sarah Nemire	WMU Frostic School of Art
2012 Emily Finan	Oakland University
2014 Amara Karapas	Adrian College
2015-2016 *	
2017 Maggie Livengood	Kendall College of Art and Design, Ferris State University
2018 *	
2019 Sarah Byers	Northern Michigan University
2019 Joseph Martin	Kendall College of Art and Design, Ferris State University
2020 Molly Sell	Western Michigan University
2020 Katelyn Brown-Reyes	Oakland University
2021 *	
2022 Susanna Yoder	Kendall College of Art and Design, Ferris State University
2023 Ashley Bearup **	Kendall College of Art and Design, Ferris State University

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2023 Caylie Riess **
2024 Grace Heiss
2025 Melanie Kerbelis

Central Michigan University
Grand Valley State University
Grand Valley State University

NAEA National Award recipients:
WR denotes Western Region

1998 Diane Kordich	NAEA WR Art Educator of the Year
2001 Harvey Goldstein	NAEA Elementary Art Educator of the Year
2002 Cinda Shantz	NAEA WR Elementary Art Educator of the Year
2003 Mary Miller	NAEA WR Middle Level Art Educator of the Year
2004 Suzanne Butler-Lich	NAEA WR Elementary Art Educator of the Year
2004 Loraine Cowe	NAEA WR Admin Supervisor Art Educator of the Year
2005 Dennis Inhulsen	NAEA WR Art Educator of the Year
2005 Dennis Inhulsen	NAEA WR Administrator of the Year
2005 Julia Tomaro	NAEA WR Middle level Art Educator of the Year
2006 Gail Bohner	NAEA WR Elementary Art Educator of the Year
2008 Mary Miller	Middle Level Art Educator of the Year
2009 Sarah Sciba	Higher Education Outstanding Student Achievement Award
2011 Madeline Milidonis Fritz	RAEA Retired Art Educator of the Year
2013 September Buys	NAEA Middle Level Educator of the Year
2014 Melissa Hronkin	NAEA Elementary Art Educator of the Year
2014 Harvey Goldstein	RAEA Retired Art Educator of the Year National Emeritus Award Winner
2015 Janine Campbell	NAEA WR Middle Level Art Educator of the Year
2016 Michael Orlando	NAEA WR Middle Level Art Educator of the Year
2017 Margaret Livengood	NAEA Preservice Art Educator of the Year
2017 Robert Curtis	RAEA Retired Art Educator of the Year National Emeritus Award Winner
2017 Kimberly Cairy	NAEA Middle Level Art Educator of the Year NAEA WR Art Educator of the Year
2017 Carrie Jeruzal	NAEA WR Middle Level Art Educator of the Year
2018 Donna Emerson	NAEA WR Elementary Art Educator of the Year
2018 Tamara Draper	NAEA WR Middle Level Art Educator of the Year
2019 Dr. Cindy Todd	NAEA Art Educator of the Year NAEA WR Art Educator of the Year NAEA WR Higher Education Art Educator of the Year
2020 September Buys	The Gilbert E. Clark & Enid Zimmerman Leadership Advocacy Award
2020 Melissa Wilson	Outstanding National Art Honor Society Sponsorship Award

The volunteer infrastructure of any organization makes the historical collection, maintenance and verification of data an imperfect science. Our apologies for any errors or omissions to this record. Your assistance in updating association files is always appreciated.

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