

# What Receiving a Merit Scholarship has Meant to Me

**Mark Araujo**

**Merit - Abstract Category**

**Gerda Karr Scholarship**

[www.markaraujo.art](http://www.markaraujo.art)

This has been an incredible opportunity to fully focus on art making and not on how I can afford to attend class the next month. It gave me a sense of freedom of liberation and that has been reflected in the work I made during the past year. The funds that would have normally gone to paying for tuition allowed to buy more supplies and create more work!

**Panini Bari**

**Merit - Realism Category**

**Will Barnet Printmaking Scholarship**

Receiving this scholarship has a significant meaning to me because I am the youngest recipient of the merit and for me, that has made me feel deep prestige. I also really enjoy printmaking and being awarded for my hard work and determination in that class makes me proud, and it inspires me to continue art. Furthermore, receiving the scholarship has helped me financially because it paid for my class and being to spend more time in the Art Students League allows me to more deeply learn about techniques and methods and advice from Tomomi Ono and Sylvie Covey.

**Caroleena Bingham**

**Merit - Abstract Category**

**Norma Adler Scholarship**

[www.caroleenabingham.com](http://www.caroleenabingham.com)

I am honoured and very thankful to have been selected for this merit as it helped tremendously toward my continual exploration for a deeper understanding to my craft and the ongoing development of the concepts and ideology behind my work in abstraction.

The most important part of receiving a season of free classes was maintaining my studies under the guidance of Frank O’Cain. He has been instrumental in the progress of my work through his teachings and techniques, which has helped me with understanding and broadening my artistic scope. This has led me on a journey to try and create a “new visual language” or add to South Pacific/Fijian art as this is my place of origin.

**Marc Bratman**

**Merit - Abstract Category**

**James C. Johnson Scholarship**

Receiving a Merit has enabled me to spend the funds I have available for my art in different ways. I have been able to invest in computer aided design software and books about art and take additional classes at the League and elsewhere which I would not have taken before. I plan to travel to Spain and/or Italy to visit the art in and out of museums. No less significantly, receiving a Merit has meant that my art has been recognized as something worth developing. This has given me a sense that the path I have been traveling has merit and I will continue to develop my ideas and techniques. I am truly appreciative of the opportunities and encouragement the Merit has afforded me.

**Diego Briceno**

**Merit - Semi-objective/Semi-abstract category**

**Adolf H. and Ada Aldrich Scholarship**

[www.diegobriceno.com](http://www.diegobriceno.com)

This Merit Scholarship means the recognition of my talent and my commitment of creating. This opportunity showed me how to envision my career based on the joy of making and saying what I want. Thanks to everyone whom made this possible for me.

**Frank Chiodo**

**Merit - Semi-objective/Semi-abstract category**

**Adolf H. and Ada Aldrich Scholarship**

[www.fchiodo.com](http://www.fchiodo.com)

This Merit Scholarship means the recognition of my talent and my commitment of creating. This opportunity showed me how to envision my career based on the joy of making and saying what I want. Thanks to everyone whom made this possible for me.

**Yocheved Cohen**

**Merit - Semi-objective/Semi-abstract category**

**Ruth Katzman Scholarship**

Although the financial assistance provided by the Ruth Katzman Scholarship was extremely welcome, its significance went far beyond dollars and cents, reinforcing my sense of artistic value and encouraging my continued exploration of ceramic sculpture.

I began my sculpting practice working with the classical figurative form, and in my classes at ASL, I continue to improve my technique within this domain. But many of my more recent

pieces also convey a more contemporary sensibility, often departing from rigorous anatomy to portray protean figures, geometric and amorphous, with human heads. These pieces explore the myriad topological possibilities of form, challenging the corporeality imposed by nature. Using ceramics as my medium, I strive to meld inherent form, as expressed through structure, with the more particularized individual stance, as portrayed by expression and position; as always, the effects are enhanced by the aesthetic choice of color and glazes.

With its collegial environment and excellent instruction, ASL is a true home for genuine artistic creativity. And it is, indeed, my artistic home. I'm deeply grateful for the financial and communal support that has allowed me to learn so much and look forward to returning to West 57th Street in the years ahead!

**Agnes Collins**

**Merit - Semi-objective/Semi-abstract category**

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton Blake Scholarship**

[www.agnescollinshunt.com](http://www.agnescollinshunt.com)

Winning a Merit Scholarship has given me chance to create with complete freedom and take the time to experiment with new techniques.

**Lola De Miguel**

**Merit - Semi-objective/Semi-abstract category**

**Leonard Rosenfeld Scholarship**

[www.lolademiguel.com](http://www.lolademiguel.com)

It has been a great opportunity to develop other skills. I signed this year full time painting and full time sculpture. I had created paintings with more textura, mix media etc as a result. It has borden the scope of my work

**Marlann Gorsky**

**Merit - Semi-objective/Semi-abstract category**

**Denise Suzanne Golinger Scholarship**

What an inspiring delight to have been chosen for this marvelous Merit Scholarship, also an extra thanks to the Judges for appreciating my work and ASL for allowing me to have this wonderful learning experience. This year was spent with a new sense of freedom for experimentation and it was liberating - my work has not suffered from it.

**Gaelle Hintzy**

**Merit - Semi-objective/Semi-abstract category**

**Trudy & Henry Gillette Scholarship**

[www.gaellehintzymarcel.com](http://www.gaellehintzymarcel.com)

It was a recognition for my work. Most of all it gave me the opportunity to follow welding classes, which was very attracting to me for years, but i did never step in. Now I realize how much possibilities are open to me, and it was a revelation!

**Jung-Sook C Lee**

**Merit - Abstract Category**

**Antoinette Jacoby Scholarship**

[www.jungsookcamillalee.com](http://www.jungsookcamillalee.com)

Progress as a painter is slow and evaluation often subjective. I embarked on this path without formal training. The difficult road of artistic development is paved with trials and discouragement. Winning the merit scholarship was an unexpected recognition of my hard work and perseverance. It's a gratifying validation and encouragement that I'm on the right path and to keep going.

**Leslie Marcus**

**Merit - Abstract Category**

**Elizabeth A. Clarke Scholarship**

[www.leslie-marcus.com](http://www.leslie-marcus.com)

I'm incredibly grateful to have received the Elizabeth A. Clarke Scholarship for abstract art.

The scholarship allowed me to broaden my classwork - opening up new experiences, without which I may not have otherwise been able to do. In addition, it's resulted in a considerable boost to my confidence knowing that my creative endeavor was recognized in this way.

The wonderful result of this is that my work has been rapidly evolving, and I was involved in several group shows.

I'm very thankful. I've had a wonderful year and am looking forward to future exhibition opportunities.

**Michael Murton**

**Merit - Realism Category**

**George A. Rada Memorial Scholarship**

[www.michaelmurton.com](http://www.michaelmurton.com)

Receiving the Merit scholarship has first and foremost taken a large amount of stress away from the cost of attending the league. Though league classes are not priced egregiously, I was certainly able to make some space in my mind due to the fact that I was able to attend classes for free. This provided me with more room to focus on learning and producing work that I could be proud of. Additionally, receiving the scholarship was a recognition of sorts in my current ability and potential moving forward as an artist. It has been extremely valuable to me to have recognition of this kind, as I am often unable to trust my judgement when it comes to the quality of my artwork. This scholarship has provided me with the opportunity to have a confident year of solid, steady work.

**Mayumi Nakao**

**Merit - Realism Category**

**Henry Matisse Estate Scholarship**

Since I got a Merit, my motivation to painting has increased more and I gained confidence. Really appreciate all.

**Laura Nató**

**Merit - Semi-objective/Semi-abstract category**

**Vivian A. Frankel Scholarship**

Winning this scholarship has meant to me a good incentive to continue learning. I took welding classes and I think this can add a lot to my mix media work. I am very grateful for this opportunity.

**Mary Poerner**

**Merit - Realism Category**

**Ardis Hughes Scholarship**

It has been a privilege to be painting at the venerable Arts Students League which has engendered such a diverse range of artistic talent since its founding in 1875. Winning the Merit Scholarship has allowed me the time and freedom to focus exclusively on my art without financial burden. As Rene Magritte said, "art evokes the mystery without which the world would not exist."

**Cheryl Rubin**

**Merit – Partial Scholarship**

**Peter Helk Scholarship**

[www.cherylrubin.com](http://www.cherylrubin.com)

It meant a lot to have my work acknowledged since the competition is so strong! It was great to be able to use the money saved on class fees for art supplies.

**Rihomi Sato**

**Merit - Abstract Category**

**Martha T. Rosen Scholarship**

[www.rihomisato.com](http://www.rihomisato.com)

It helped me a lot and I was very concentrated my art last year. I'm so proud of be part of The Art Students League of NY. Thank you so much.

**Lynn Staley**

**Merit – Partial Scholarship**

**Ronnie Cutler Award**

[www.lynnstaley.com](http://www.lynnstaley.com)

The scholarship was a very important acknowledgment of the work I've put in over five years to grow my skills as a painter. It's a path I've chosen late in life, and the award has encouraged me to continue along it.

**Brittany Vogel**

**Merit - Abstract Category**

**John M. Regan Jr. Scholarship**

[www.BrittanyVogelArt.com](http://www.BrittanyVogelArt.com)

It was such an honor to receive the Merit Scholarship. It validated my work and gave me confidence. The scholarship allowed me to change to a full-time class instead of part-time. The additional studio time allowed me to enter a time-sensitive competition, which afterwards lead to my creating a mural underneath Columbus Circle. Both the Merit and the mural have increased my credibility when applying to other opportunities. Now, I am reaching out to institutions and they are saying 'Yes' and local businesses are asking to show my work. In short, the Merit Scholarship provided confidence and momentum. I am greatly appreciative to the donor, the League (including my fantastic instructor) and the judges. Thank you!