



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finalists for 20th Annual ARTS Awards Announced by Dallas Market Center and the Accessories Resource Team

DALLAS – August 21, 2008 – Dallas Market Center, the world's largest wholesale merchandise resource, and the Accessories Resource Team (ART), the trade association representing the decorative accessory industry, today announced the 20th annual ARTS Awards finalists.

The ARTS Awards is the premier awards program for the home decorative accessories industry and is held each January during the Dallas Total Home & Gift Market (January 14 – 20, 2009). This year's gala will take place on Saturday, January 17, 2009 in The Grand Pavilion at the Trade Mart.

"Congratulations to the finalists for this year's ARTS Awards," said Bill Winsor, president and CEO, Dallas Market Center. "It's an honor to celebrate these outstanding manufacturers, retailers, product designers, and sales reps during the 20th anniversary of the ARTS Awards."

The finalists will submit a detailed portfolio to a panel of distinguished judges previously announced, including Mark McMenamin, senior editor at *Interior Design*; Janace Clarke, associate professor of fashion merchandising at Texas Christian University; Rawlins Gilliland, retail consultant and expert; Helen Erdman, founder of Helen Erdman Interiors; and Pat Mayfield, founder and president of a business consulting company, Pat Mayfield Consulting, LLC. The portfolios will consist of information including company history, philosophy, product development, marketing, merchandising and customer relations. In November, the panel of judges will convene in Dallas for two days to individually review each company's submission. Once judging is completed, a designated accounting firm will tabulate and secure the ballots until the winners are announced in January.

The 20th annual ARTS Awards are sponsored by *Accessory Merchandising, Contract Lighting, FurnitureStyle, Gifts & Decorative Accessories, HFN, Home Accents Today, Home Lighting & Accessories, Residential Lighting*, and The Gift & Home Channel.

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For tickets to the ARTS Awards gala contact Emily Forsythe at 214-655-7635 or eforsythe@dmcmail.com.

Make plans now to attend the next Total Home & Gift Markets in Dallas on September 13 – 15, 2008 and January 14 – 20, 2009. Attendees may contact the Dallas Market Center's in-house travel agency, MarketTravel®, for substantial travel and hotel discounts by calling 1-800-DAL-MKTS.

20th ARTS Awards Finalists

Manufacturers

Accent Furniture

Bungalow Five, Inc. – Oakland, N.J.
Selamat Designs – Mill Valley, Calif.
Vintage – Lancaster, Ky.

Area Rugs

Feizy Rugs – Dallas, Texas
Loloi Rugs – Dallas, Texas
Surya – Calhoun, Ga.

Decorative Accessories

Cyan Design – Fort Worth, Texas
IMAX Corporation – Tulsa, Okla.
The Phillips Collection – High Point, N.C.
Two's Company, Inc. – Elmsford, N.Y.

Lighting Fixtures

Fine Art Lamps – Miami Lakes, Fla.
Kalco Lighting, LLC – Las Vegas, Nev.
Progress Lighting – Greenville, S.C.
Stonegate Designs – St. Joseph, Mich.
Uncommon Radiance – Chicago, Ill.

Outdoor Living

Emissary – Atlanta, Ga.
Palecek – Richmond, Calif.
Starlight Lanterns, Inc. – Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

– more –

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Permanent Floral

Immortalis Botanicals – Farmville, Va.
SIA Home Fashion – France
Winward International, Inc. – Union City, Calif.

Portable Lamps

Arteriors Home – Dallas, Texas
Oriental Accent, Inc. – Dallas, Texas
Sterling Industries – Norcross, Ga.
Visual Comfort & Co. – Houston, Texas

Tabletop

Arthur Court Designs – Brisbane, Calif.
Beatriz Ball Collection – Harvey, La.
The Mary Carol Home Collection by Gerson Companies – Olathe, Kan.
Vietri – Hillsborough, N.C.

Wall Décor

Art Dreams Home – Ventura, Calif.
Paragon – Albertville, Ala.
Uttermost – Rocky Mount, Va.

International Retail Store

Casa de Linos y Blancos – S.A. de C.V., Mexico, D.F.
Ma Maison Interiores – Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico, D.F.
Union Lighting & Furnishings – Toronto, Ontario

Product Designer

Allan Palecek, Palecek – Richmond, Calif.
Karyl Pierce Paxton, Pierce Paxton Design Studio – New Orleans, La.
Lance Marconi, EMI Design – Chicago, Ill.
Mark Abrams, Mark Abrams Design – Greensboro, N.C.

Sales Representative

East/Atlantic

Danny Weaver, Danny Weaver & Associates, Inc. – Pickens, S.C.
Lizzette Hayes Winters, Lightlines – Pleasant View, Tenn.
Russ Jones, OneCoast Northeast Home – New York, N.Y.

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Midwest/Southwest

Derrick Ricketts, Codarus – Pearland, Texas
Martha Kean, Doris Sanders LTD – Houston, Texas
Michelle Cheek, OneCoast Southwest Home – Morrilton, Ark.

West

Laura Fast, OneCoast – Denver, Colo.
Laurel Sprawkins, Northwest Lighting – Gresham, Ore.
Linda Northcutt, LGN, Inc. – Bothell, Wash.

Rising Star Retailer

Lyteworks – Bradenton, Fla.
Leon & Lulu – Clawson, Mich.
Oz Collection – Louisville, Ky.

Retailer

Furniture Store

East/Atlantic

24e. – Savannah, Ga.
Atchison Imports, Inc. – Mobile, Ala.
Robb & Stucky Interiors – Fort Myers, Fla.

Midwest/Southwest

HW Home – Boulder, Colo.
Kuhl-Linscomb – Houston, Texas
Noel Furniture – Houston, Texas

West

Interior Illusions – West Hollywood, Calif.
Landfair Furniture + Design Gallery – Portland, Ore.

Home Accent Store

East/Atlantic

Ambiance Interiors & Gifts – Suwanee, Ga.
Gracious Home – New York, N.Y.
L&M Designs – Gaithersburg, Md.

– more –

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Midwest/Southwest

BJ's Home Accents, Inc. – Newburgh, Ind.
Nell Hill's – Atchison, Kan.
The Burlap Horse – Boerne, Texas

West

Fitzsu – Los Angeles, Calif.
Pandora's – Santa Fe, N.M.
Seaside Home – La Jolla, Calif.

Lighting Showroom

East/Atlantic

Capitol Lighting – Boca Raton, Fla.
Ferguson – Charleston, S.C.
Klaff's, Inc. – Norwalk, Conn.

Midwest/Southwest

Echo Lighting Design Gallery – Omaha, Neb.
Lights Fantastic – Carrollton, Texas

West

Five Rivers, Inc. – Boise, Idaho
James Ashjian Lighting & Home – Fresno, Calif.
Legacy Lighting & Home – Scottsdale, Ariz.

About the ARTS Awards

The ARTS Awards is the premiere awards program dedicated to the home decorative accessories industry. Twenty-six categories exist under the headings Manufacturer, Retailer, Product Designer, Sales Representative, Rising Star and Academy of Achievement. Manufacturers and the Rising Star award are nominated by retailers, sales representatives, designers, suppliers, consultants and other industry officials. Retailers are nominated by manufacturers, sales representatives and other industry officials. Sales representatives are nominated by manufacturers, retailers and other industry officials. Product designers are nominated by all. The Academy of Achievement honoree is selected by the ARTS Awards committee each year. Companies that have won the ARTS Awards five or more times will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame members are: C.S. Wo & Sons, Distinctive Designs International Inc., Fine Art Lamps, Montage, Natural Decorations Inc., Palecek, Robb & Stucky and Schonbek Worldwide Lighting.

About the Accessories Resource Team

The Accessories Resource Team (ART) is the association representing accessory manufacturers, retailers, representatives and other industry individuals and companies interested in promoting the decorative home accessories industry. The association's goal is to enhance the market position of decorative home accessories. Each year ART sponsors programs such as the ART conference, regional educational seminars and the ARTS Awards. The Accessories Resource Team Web site is available at www.accessoriesresourceteam.org.

About Dallas Market Center

Founded in 1957, Dallas Market Center is the world's largest wholesale merchandise resource. Within its marketplace of more than five million square feet, retailers from around the globe source products ranging from home furnishings, gifts, decorative accessories and lighting to textiles, fashion accessories and men's, western, women's and children's apparel. With more than 50 markets each year attended by more than 200,000 retail buyers from all 50 states and 84 countries, Dallas Market Center offers hundreds of events and seminars geared toward helping retailers expand business and increase profits. As a result, more than \$8 billion in estimated wholesale transactions are conducted annually within the Dallas Market Center complex. The Dallas Market Center Web site is available at www.dallasmarketcenter.com.

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