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David Barnes Wins Prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant

The Newport Art Museum recently received word that longtime instructor and artist David Barnes has been awarded the prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant. Barnes, a Newport resident, has won Best-in-Show twice in the Newport Annual Juried Members' Exhibition and exhibited his work in solo and several group shows at the Museum.

The Pollock-Krasner award is the legacy of abstract expressionist painter Lee Krasner, the widow of Jackson Pollock. Grants are awarded to professional visual artists internationally, based on dual criteria of artistic merit and financial need. Barnes is the first Rhode Island artist to receive this award in several years.

Barnes has been a popular instructor at the Museum's Coleman Center for Creative Studies since its opening in 1998 and is teaching a Figure Painting Workshop in January of 2016. In addition to winning Best-in-Show in the Newport Annual in 1997 and 2001, and 1st Place in Mixed Media in 2012, Barnes was a part of the Museum's centennial exhibition "Recollections/Reconnections" in 2012, "Legacies in Paint: the Menor Project," in 2013, and "NetWorks" in 2014. His work has been shown in many other Rhode Island venues including "Made in Rhode Island," at the RISD Museum.

Newport Art Museum Curator Nancy Whipple Grinnell, who along with two others recommended Barnes for the grant, has long admired Barnes' ability to draw and paint as well as his need to explore new territory in his art. Both she and Executive Director Norah Diedrich are thrilled for Barnes, saying it is an "amazing honor" for him.