

Unique Artists in Attendance at SUA's 2011 Unique Art Awards

On July 16th, 2011, the Unique Art Awards acknowledged 26 extraordinary and unique artists in 6 categories - Unique Food Art, Unique Ice Sculpture, Unique Sand Art, Unique Performing Arts, Unique Painting, and Unique Unusual Art

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Unique Ice Sculpture finalist, **Mark McKenzie** (Left) from **Cool Way Ice**, Astoria, NY poses with friend on the red carpet, upon arrival to the 2011 Unique Art Awards.



Unique Ice Sculpture finalist, **Henry Wallace of Empire Ice Carving**, Long Island, NY and wife, Heather, smile enthusiastically on the red carpet as they arrive at the Unique Art Awards.



Unique Performing Arts finalist, **Rowena Dale Mohammed of Gotham Synchronized Swimming** arrives with friend at the Unique Art Awards.



Unique Artists Honored in New York

Society of Unique Artists' efforts to continue to acknowledge and promote unique artists everywhere, took one step further on July 16th, 2011, as SUA hosted the Unique Art Awards at the fabulous Jerome L. Greene Space in Manhattan.

Since SUA has no boundaries when it comes to unearthing unique artists and art forms, many nominees were unable to attend the event. Quite a few of the finalists and winners are based in such far away locations like France, England, Canada, California and Colorado, to name only a few. Yet, in spite of the distances, nominees and award winners Tracy Lee Stum and Mark Howell of Le Ombré, who are both from California, made sure they were on hand for the festivities. Other New York based award winners, Shintaro Okamoto, Danny Setiawan, Nathan Sawaya, and finalists, Mark McKenzie, Henry Wallace, and Dale Mohammed of Gotham Synchronized Swimming also attended.

SUA hopes that the success of this debut event, will garner much more support for future events, so that artists not based in the host city, can receive a stipend to attend the event.



Host, Danielle Guldin, announces the winner of the Most Creative Ice Sculpture Award, as body painted model, Kathleen Sedivic, presents the award to **Shintaro Okamoto**, of **Okamoto Studio**, NYC



3-D Street Painter, **Tracy Lee Stum** and Body Painter, **Danny Setiawan** both give speeches after winning the Most Extreme and Most Creative Awards (respectively) in Unique Painting.



From left to right: **Nathan Sawaya** thanks his girlfriend for her support, as he accepts the Most Creative Award in Unique Unusual Art for his incredible **Lego Art**. **Mark Howell**, Creative Director of **Le Ombré**, thanks body painted model as he accepts the Most Creative Award for a Group in the Unique Performing Arts category. Members of the East River Jazz Band are surprised to receive the notable SUA Supporter of the Arts Award.



Ventriloquist Comedienne April Brucker

April Brucker was on her game as she performed at the 2011 Unique Art Awards immediately after the winners of the Unique Food Art category were announced. She shocked the audience as she proclaimed that everyone should eat the Food Art nominees' sculptures since they were not in attendance.

She then proceeded to ask audience members how they felt about their roommates, as she proclaimed that she hated hers. She then introduced them to her roommate, May Williams, who also happens to be her blond, foul-mouthed, sidekick dummy.

April and May were hilarious and let it all hang out as they interacted with each other. Some memorable references to Britney Spears and rappers left the audience craving for more. April did not disappoint as she tired of May's antics and had an audience member replace May as her dummy. The audience member, who happened to be Unique Ice Sculpture finalist, Henry Wallace, had a great time as April manipulated his every word and movements.

April is a first class performer and superbly exemplified the unique art of ventriloquism. SUA hopes that with April's performance, the diminishing art of ventriloquism will be highlighted and recognized.

Please visit April's website at www.aprilbrucker.com to learn more about April and find out about future performances.



Magician Apollo Riego

The unique and incredible art of magic was spotlighted at SUA's Unique Art Awards on July 16, 2011. The magnificent Apollo Riego capped the evening's performances as he mesmerized the audience with his astounding magic.

Apollo stepped on the stage with a bang, as he popped and locked to Michael Jackson music, while seamlessly guiding a baton in mid air on its own.

He then proceeded to invite the lovely show host, Danielle Guldin, on stage to assist him. He handed her a plain paper tissue which he asked her to unfold and inspect. He crumpled it up and made it levitate. Then to Danielle's amazement, Apollo handed her the tissue and had it levitate from the palm of her own hand, as she guided it with her other hand.

Apollo then retook the same plain tissue, formed it into a rose, and made it levitate again - this time, to the astonishment of spectators, with no hands! However, Apollo had an even more spectacular grand finale planned. He then lit the paper tissue with a lighter and remarkably produced a beautiful fresh red rose, which he presented to Danielle as a gift! What an incredible performance from a truly gifted artist!

Watch out for this wonderful young magician! He undoubtedly has a very promising career ahead!





Society of Unique Artists would like to thank the following sponsors, without whom this event could not have taken place!



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The 2011 Unique Art Awards will air on Extreme Art Television on August 9, 2011 on MNN.

Please check the EAT page on our website at:

<http://www.suartists.org/EAT.html>

for more information.