

Betty Taylor Memorial Award for Emerging Artists

Betty Taylor took her first art lesson at the tender age of eight, and her love of the Arts stayed with her throughout her life. Betty spent most of her career in Michigan where her work was handled by galleries. It was there that she personally experienced and understood the struggles, persistence, and need for assistance as an emerging artist.

After Betty's death in 1990, her husband, Ross Taylor, established the Betty Taylor Memorial Fund with the Community Foundation to promote and support emerging artists who have financial need and are studying in the field of visual arts and crafts. Mr. Taylor often said, "Betty's hands could create anything, it was magical," and it is the Foundation's pleasure to keep the memory and spirit of Betty Taylor alive with the award each year.



2016 - 2017
Lucy Clark

The first-ever recipient of the Betty Taylor Memorial Award for Emerging Artists was Lucy Clark, a Hand Build Potter who creates with the element of clay. Clark's grant award enabled her to attend an intensive three-week workshop with Master Potter Clarence Cruz at Georgia O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, in January of 2017.

During her studies, Clark obtained new skills in the realm of natural and organic techniques which she used to create a new series of work titled Earth – Hands & Fire Connecting with Sacred Ground that was on display in early 2017 at The Gallery at Flat Rock.



2017 - 2018
Alison Chism

Alison Chism is a life-long artist whose dedication to the medium of glass began in 1986 in the San Francisco State University glass program. After obtaining her M.F.A. in 2003 from The Ohio State University, Chism landed in Maryland as an Assistant Professor at Salisbury University, before eventually making her home in Western North Carolina.

During her year as the Betty Taylor grant recipient, Chism participated in two residencies spending time learning and expanding her skills in Columbus, Ohio, at Glass Axis working in the hot glass studio, and then at the world famous Wheaton Arts Center in Millville, New Jersey.

In June of 2018, Alison's gallery show, *Meaning and Object: Life in Glass*, was on display at The Gallery at Flat Rock and featured pieces created during her residencies.



2018 - 2019
Jennifer Mills

After a 30-year career as a broadcaster, Jennifer Mills took up a paintbrush in 2015 and began her next chapter as an oil and acrylic artist. With her Betty Taylor grant, Mills took multiple mentoring workshops under Jim Carson, a lawyer turned oil painter based out of Saluda, North Carolina. During her studies, Mills learned more about capturing values, temperature recharge and color, and acquiring new knowledge to improve her own works. In the spirit of Betty Taylor, she also created and donated one painting per month to various charitable fundraisers, giving her an opportunity to improve her craft.

In November of 2019, her work was on display at her Artist Reception and Show at The Wrinkled Egg in Flat Rock, North Carolina, where many of her pieces are for sale today.

Jennifer's work is displayed on the cover of this Annual Report and throughout the pages. The Community Foundation extends our gratitude to her for sharing her work and for her commitment to giving back to our local community.



2019 - 2020
Delia Jovel Dubón

The most recent recipient of the Betty Taylor Memorial Award for Emerging Artists is Delia Jovel Dubón – a storyteller originally from El Salvador who has called Henderson County "home" since 2014. She holds an undergraduate degree in journalism and a Master's degree in political science. Her career has spanned from teaching Spanish in France to instructing local GED Spanish programs in Henderson County.

Storytelling is the art of creating a colorful visual account as related by the artist and seen by the audience. As an emerging storyteller, Delia had not yet had the opportunity to train under a professional, but has always had a strong interest in the art of writing, poetry, painting, and presenting. With the Betty Taylor grant, Delia studied under a Master Storyteller to advance her craft of recording and telling stories of Latin-American tales, myths, and legends.

"I am passionate about writing and have promoted arts and culture throughout my life," says Delia. "Now I feel the commitment to use my skills to become a storyteller honoring my roots, my language, my culture, and traditions. I have always wanted to be able to develop and integrate my personal passions into an artistic medium that involves education and culture."

Because of social distancing measures and gathering capacities, the Betty Taylor Memorial Award was presented to Delia virtually in the summer of 2020. During the presentation, Delia shared her storytelling talents and how the award and her work will be able to make an impact locally.