

2000 ELIZABETH O'NEILL VERNER AWARDS  
GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS

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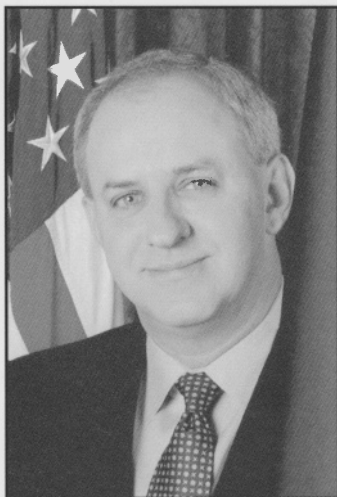
Elizabeth O'Neill Verner



*Elizabeth O'Neill Vernon*



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ELIZABETH O'NEILL VERNER

## Governor's Awards for the Arts

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

*Governor and Mrs. Jim Hodges and the members of the South Carolina Arts Commission join together in congratulating the 2000 Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award recipients for their outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina.*

We are proud to honor recipients in the following categories:

### Arts Education Organization

Trident Regional Arts Collaborative Endeavor (TRACE)

### Government

North Charleston Cultural Arts Program

### Individual in Arts Education

Beryl Dakers

### Arts Organization

Trustus Theatre

### Business

Beaufort Art Supply

### Individual

John Whitehead

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ELIZABETH O'NEILL VERNER

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**Governor's Awards for the Arts**

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

House of Representatives Chamber  
The State House

## **Processional**

March from "Die Zauber Posaune" by Gordon R. Goodwin  
performed by the Palmetto Brass Quintet

## **Welcome**

Patricia E. Wilson, Chair  
South Carolina Arts Commission

## **Opening Remarks and Introduction of Guest Speaker**

Governor Jim Hodges

## **Guest Speaker**

Charles Wadsworth, Artistic Director of Chamber Music, Spoleto Festival USA

## **Presentation Ceremony**

Suzette M. Surkamer  
Executive Director, South Carolina Arts Commission

### **Arts Education Organization**

Trident Regional Arts Collaborative Endeavor (TRACE)

### **Government**

North Charleston Cultural Arts Program

### **Individual in Arts Education**

Beryl Dakers

### **Arts Organization**

Trustus Theatre

### **Business**

Beaufort Art Supply

### **Individual**

John Whitehead

## **Closing**

Performance by Kurt Lamkin and John English  
"Queen of Carolina," a composition commissioned by the South Carolina Arts  
Commission for the 2000 Biennial Statewide Conference on the Arts

Reception immediately following at the Columbia Museum of Art,  
corner of Main and Hampton Streets



# Trident Regional Arts Collaborative Endeavor

ARTS EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

## Trident Regional Arts Collaborative Endeavor (TRACE)

provides opportunities for thousands of third-grade students and their teachers to experience the arts through an interdisciplinary, arts-infused curriculum. The program, initially funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission, started in 1992 in 15 schools in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley Counties. With a goal of improving teaching and learning through the arts, TRACE's classroom teachers and arts specialists work

*By joining hands with others we can accomplish any goal imaginable. The hands of our community, arts organizations, and educators are joined in the partnership we call TRACE... a fabulous program that allows my students exciting arts experiences that take them far beyond the walls of the classroom.*

— Karen Powell, TRACE teacher, Belle Hall Elementary School, Charleston

collaboratively to prepare students for museum visits and attendance at symphony, opera and dance performances. Students are engaged in a diverse collection of arts experiences each year, ranging from the Charleston Ballet Theatre's "Cinderella" to a Brazilian drum ensemble at Spoleto. TRACE provides ongoing staff development opportunities, lesson plans based on four thematic units (Maps, Stories, Self, and The Environment), field trips, artists' visits, and a resource kit of arts education materials to help teachers use the arts to teach basic skills. With funding from the Trident Educational Foundation, the South Carolina Department of Education, and the Arts Commission, the program has grown. Eight schools have been added, and TRACE Partners now include the three Trident-area school districts, Charleston

Ballet Theatre, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Charleston Stage Company, Anonymity Dance Company, Gibbes Museum of Art, City of Charleston, and Spoleto Festival USA. "As a teacher who has participated in TRACE for five years, I know that the program has had a major impact on my teaching and on students," said Susan Antonelli of Ashley River Elementary School.





# North Charleston Cultural Arts Program

GOVERNMENT

**The North Charleston Cultural Arts Program** works to make North Charleston a more appealing place to live and visit. A unit of city government, the program sponsors the North Charleston Arts Festival, a free annual event that

*The Cultural Arts Program sponsors one of the finest Arts Festivals in the state, providing a venue for local and national artists to showcase their talents. Daily, I see this organization's many contributions to the quality of life of our citizens.*

— Donald Wilkinson, Jr., Editor,  
*North Charleston News*

attracts more than 8,000 people. Tourists and residents enjoy free monthly exhibits at the City Art Gallery. The Dinner Theatre and the Outdoor Park Concerts are also popular public events. The Cultural Arts Program provides plays and musical entertainment for city day camps, day care facilities, home-schooled children, and 25 City of North Charleston schools. The Artist-in-Residence program brings the arts to senior citizens, recreational facilities and schools. The Cultural Arts Program provides North Charleston with performers for the annual Christmas Festival, the Fall Festival of Families and other events throughout the year.



# Beryl Dakers

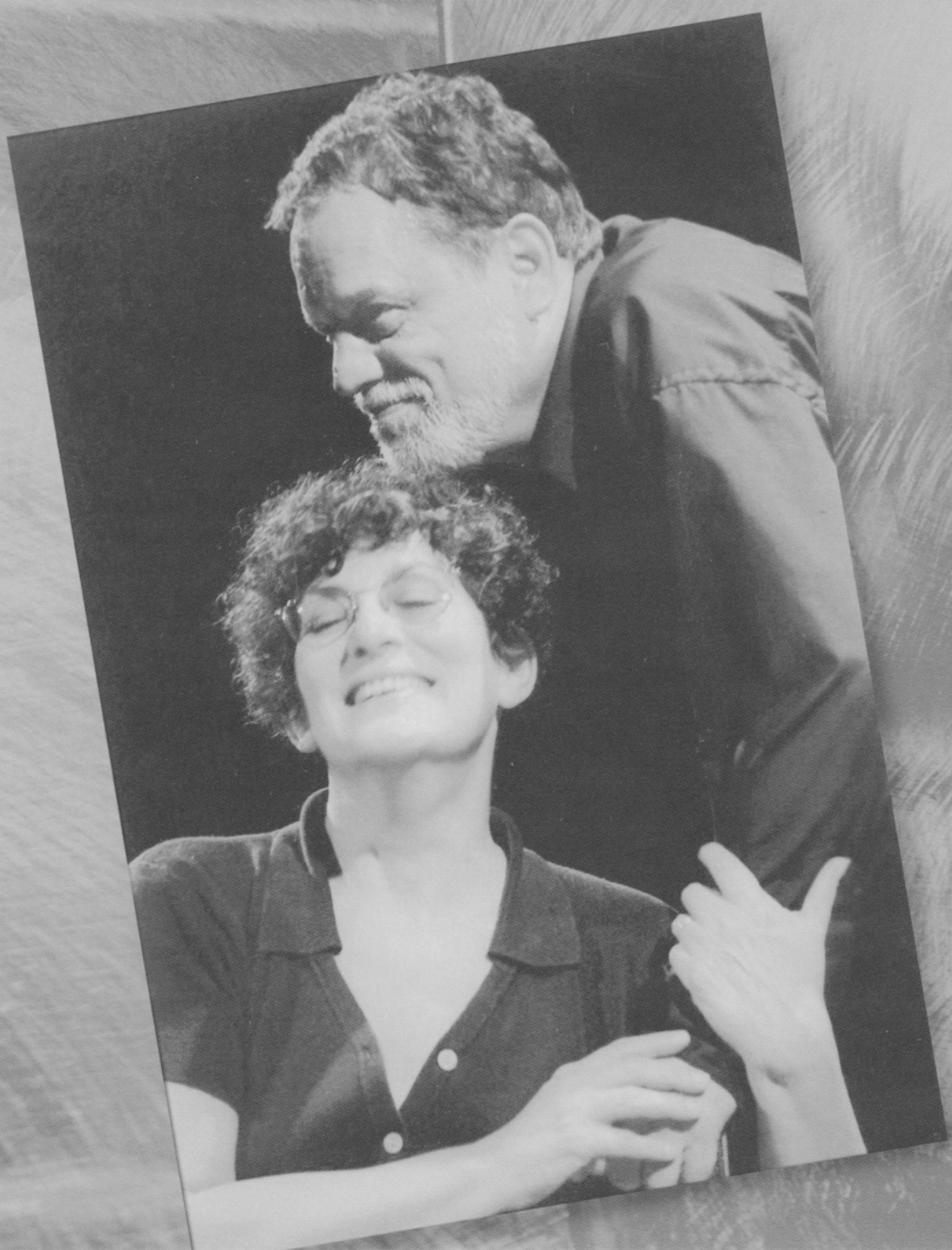
## INDIVIDUAL IN ARTS EDUCATION

**Beryl Dakers** is director of Cultural Programming for South Carolina Educational Television (ETV). For more than two decades, she has been connecting artists with audiences and serving as one of South Carolina's most influential forces for lifelong learning in the arts. She currently hosts *VERVE!*, an arts and humanities program, and *What in the World Is It?*, ETV's antiques and collectibles show. Beryl was the creator of *Art's the Thing*, the exemplary weekly arts magazine program, which aired for ten years. She hosted the first national teleconference on the arts and covered Spoleto since its inception in 1977. She received a gold award at Worldfest Charleston, a silver award at Houston International Film Festival, the Ohio State Award, the Gabriel Award, and the Wilbur Award among others. She serves on the boards of the South Carolina Arts Foundation, the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties, and the South Carolina Arts Alliance. She is a longtime member of the Arts in Basic Curriculum Steering Committee, which has spearheaded arts education reform in South Carolina for

*If the arts could talk, they would sound like Beryl Dakers. Her voice is legendary, and her style is extraordinary.*

— Dr. Leo Twiggs, artist and former director of South Carolina State University's I.P. Stanback Planetarium and Museum

more than a decade, and the Cultural Visions Council, which supports communities that foster economic development through the arts. Articulate, passionate, and profound, Beryl Dakers is an omnipresent public voice for the importance of the arts in the lives of our young people, our communities, and our state. "Beryl has long been the voice of the arts in South Carolina," said Betty Plumb, Executive Director, South Carolina Arts Alliance.



# Trustus Theatre

ARTS ORGANIZATION

**Trustus Theatre** began 15 years ago on a makeshift stage in a Columbia store. With the visionary guidance of its founders, Jim and Kay Thigpen, it has become an award-winning performing arts organization and a key component of the city's historic Congaree Vista. Mayor Bob Coble said, "The theatre has drawn regional and national attention to our city and state, premiering 16 original plays in thirteen years, and providing free classes through the African-American Acting Workshop and Apprentice Company." Year-round, thought-provoking productions have earned Trustus many awards and a diverse audience. The Late Night Series and IPWIC (I pay what I can) Sundays attract many first-time theatre-goers and performers. Through the Apprentice Company, Trustus gives high school students experience in all aspects of theatre. Trustus established the South Carolina Playwrights' Festival and

*Trustus Theatre stands resolute in commitment — commitment to quality, commitment to freedom of expression, commitment to serve all of the community.*

— Robert F. Medlock, consultant

the African-American Acting Workshop. It is the only South Carolina theatre to receive funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and has been honored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the South Carolina Theatre Association, and South Carolina's General Assembly. In 1999, the City of Columbia awarded the theater \$50,000 for capital improvements and \$10,000 from the accommodations tax for general operating support in recognition of Trustus' viability as a growing theatre. "The Trustus Company gives South Carolinians the opportunity to see new works by new playwrights. They present first class work to audiences who otherwise might never have the opportunity to see the cutting edge of this vibrant art form. The Company's reputation has attracted media coverage and brought national attention to our city," said William R. Jennings, Director, SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism.



# Beaufort Art Supply

BUSINESS

**Beaufort Art Supply** is well known for donating art products to local organizations, auctions, and events. The owners, Scott and Linda McKenney, are devoted arts advocates and have served on the boards of many cultural organizations. Linda McKenney is the founding

*If we can do anything to enrich the community in the arts, we will. As a small retail art supply business, we are in contact with the needs of our art community. We believe that good works are good business.*

— Scott and Linda McKenney

director of Arts in the Park. The McKenneys moved to South Carolina in 1997 and opened their store within months. Beaufort Art Supply has provided free art classes for children and adults, matches employee donations, and is a primary supporter of a new arts education foundation created to subsidize art supplies and activities for local schools. To assist a new school, “Scott McKenney came to our rescue and taught painting classes for an entire semester,” said Margaret Rushton of the Humanities School of Beaufort. The McKenneys commissioned one of Beaufort’s most visible public art works, a statue on Highway 21. “No business in the Lowcountry has done more to support creativity and cultural expression than Beaufort Art Supply. Often, tax incentives encourage businesses to contribute to community organizations, but Beaufort Art Supply’s only motive is the desire to develop a thriving cultural community,” said Eric Vaughn Holowacz, Executive Director, Arts Council of Beaufort County.





# John Whitehead

INDIVIDUAL

**John Whitehead** has worked for more than three decades to make the arts an integral part of life in the Columbia area. Through his tireless efforts, the Columbia City Ballet, the Carolina Ballet, Eboni Dance Theatre, the Columbia Philharmonic Orchestra, the Columbia Choral Society and the Columbia Lyric Opera made their mark on the arts landscape of the capital city. He is executive director of the Columbia Music Festival Association (CMFA), which provides space for performance, rehearsal,

*He has the humility of an itinerant minister, the artistry of a master, the knowledge of a scholar and the tenacity of a giant.*

—Virginia Uldrick, President,  
SC Governor's School for the  
Arts and Humanities

volunteer coordination, and storage. It shares management and other resources with arts organizations and artists. He was a founding member of Workshop Theatre and Columbia Action Council. He served on the board of the South Carolina Arts Commission and assisted in establishing Eboni Dance Theatre. He is Carolina Ballet's artistic director and a member of the Governor's School for the Arts advisory council. Through his work with Richland School District One and DancePoint, an after-school project, he has introduced thousands of school children to the arts. An accomplished artist, businessman, event planner, community organizer, arts administrator, writer, and multi-faceted designer, John Whitehead is an advocate, leader, and consummate volunteer for the arts. "He believes that the arts are the best that society has to offer and that they should be available to everyone. For him, there is never a question regarding who should be served by the arts," said CMFA President, Elizabeth Wessels. He has been honored by the White House with the President's Volunteer Action Award. Mr. Whitehead has received South Carolina's most prestigious award, the Order of the Palmetto.



# Charles Wadsworth

GUEST SPEAKER

**Charles Wadsworth** has drawn millions of people worldwide since the 1960's to the pleasures of chamber music through an exciting diversity of repertoire performed by virtuoso musicians. His innovative programming in conjunction with his musical knowledge, personal charm and insouciant commentary from the stage has brought audiences and music together in a unique and heralded way. His identification with chamber music began in Spoleto, Italy in 1960 when Gian Carlo Menotti asked him to create what became the internationally renowned chamber music concerts of the Festival of Two Worlds. In 1969 Wadsworth began a 20-year tenure as founder and Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, commissioning chamber music works from all of the noted composers of the latter part of the Twentieth Century. Mr. Wadsworth created programs that are now the format of chamber music festivals and series worldwide. He has often worked with young artists, choosing some of the world's most celebrated long before fame has touched them, including Jessye Norman, Kathleen Battle, Pinchas Zukerman, Emanuel Ax, Peter Serkin and the Guarneri Quartet.

Each season Mr. Wadsworth performs a pair of concerts with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He is presently the Artistic Director of Chamber Music at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, and tours extensively throughout the United States each season. He is also the Artistic Director of the Musical Masterworks Series in Old Lyme, Connecticut, as well as chamber music series in Columbia, Hilton Head, and Beaufort, South Carolina, and Callaway Gardens in Georgia. Mr. Wadsworth has been honored with an Emmy Award for his performances and programs on "Live from Lincoln Center," and has been recognized for his lifetime of musical achievement with Honorary Doctorates from Connecticut College, Converse College and the University of South Carolina. He has been honored by France with the title Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters and was named Cavaliere Ufficiale of the First Order by the Republic of Italy, and was awarded New York City's highest cultural award, the Handel Medallion. Mr. Wadsworth has had the honor of performing at the White House for Presidents Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan. Mr. Wadsworth received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School.

# The South Carolina Arts Commission

With a commitment to excellence across the spectrum of our state's cultures and forms of expression, the South Carolina Arts Commission pursues its public charge to develop a thriving arts environment, which is essential to quality of life, education, and economic vitality for all South Carolinians.

The South Carolina Arts Commission was established in 1967, as an agency of state government to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide program to advance the arts in South Carolina, and to assure their excellence. The Commission directs its resources toward making the arts a part of the life experience of every South Carolina citizen, providing comprehensive, professional arts resources and the impetus for an environment in which artists can work and prosper.

The Arts Commission has long been a pioneer in the presentation, programming and funding of arts services in the state, offering a wide range of expertise to artists, arts organizations, educators, and local communities throughout South Carolina. The Commission takes a strong role in creating public interest, awareness, and encouraging participation in the cultural heritage and quality of life issues and activities in the state.

Grants from the Commission to South Carolina organizations and institutions continue to support development of the arts in South Carolina communities and encourage the development of individual arts through fellowship, marketing and financial assistance programs.

The Board of Commissioners, the governing body of the Commission, is composed of nine volunteer citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for the purpose of guiding the development of the arts in the state. Commissioners are residents of South Carolina who are selected for their practice of, participation in, or support of the creative and interpretive arts.

With primary funding from state tax dollars, the Commission receives additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts, private foundations, community sponsors and regional organizations such as Southern Arts Federation.

## South Carolina Arts Commission Board

Patricia E. Wilson, Chair  
Columbia  
Elizabeth N. Adams, Ph.D.,  
Columbia  
Carrie Burns Brown  
Greenville  
Judy W. Cooter  
Greenville  
Carolyn Govan  
Hartsville  
John B. Heaton  
Aiken  
Eligio Maoli, Ph.D.  
Columbia  
Martha A. Vaughn  
Taylors  
Sybil M. Whitenburg  
Columbia

## South Carolina Arts Foundation Board

Linda C. Stern, President  
Ellen C. Baldwin  
Diana Blackwell  
Beryl Dakers  
Jeanet Dreskin  
Toni M. Elkins  
Lorin Palmer Fielding  
Caroline Freeman  
Michel Graydon  
Gina Hartness  
Robert E. Howard  
Fran Jorgenson  
Sue Kline  
Frank E. Lucas  
Dr. J. Lorin Mason, Jr.  
Samuel L. Tenenbaum  
Dr. Leo F. Twiggs  
John Whitehead  
Mack I. Whittle, Jr.  
Patricia E. Wilson  
Suzette M. Surkamer (Ex-Officio)

## 2000 South Carolina Arts Commission Fellows

Clifton Peacock, Charleston  
Keith Lee Morris, Clemson  
Jon Tuttle, Florence  
Sandy Shackelford, Conway

Visual Arts/2-Dimensional  
Literature/Prose  
Playwriting/Screenwriting  
Acting

# The Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts



To recognize outstanding achievement and contributions to the arts in South Carolina, the Arts Commission annually presents the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Awards, the highest honor the state gives in the arts. These awards encourage South Carolina arts organizations, patrons, artists, the business community, and government to maximize their roles as innovators, supporters and advocates of the arts.

Over the past years, special guest speakers for the Verner awards ceremonies have included Alexander Julian, Colleen Dewhurst, Tony Randall, Edward Villella, James Dickey, John Jakes, Kitty Carlisle Hart, David Ogden Stiers and Vivian Ayers.

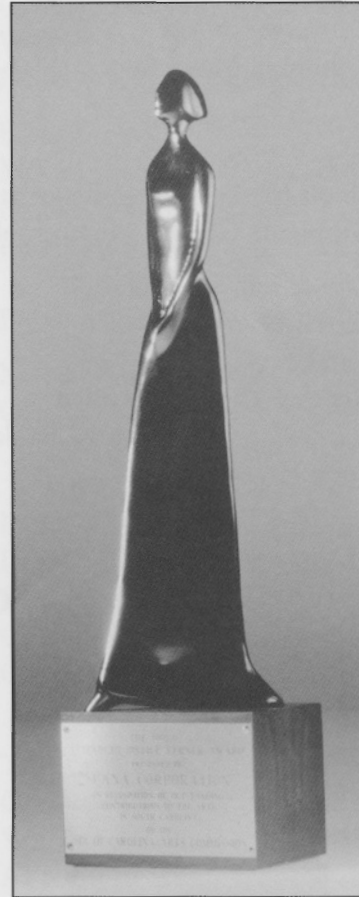
In 1980, the Verner Awards took on a special significance with their designation as official "Governor's Awards for the Arts."

Elizabeth O'Neill Verner achieved an international reputation for her etchings and pastels, many of which capture the spirit of the Carolina Low Country. She was also a teacher, writer and historian. Throughout her 96 years, Mrs. Verner traveled extensively through Europe and the Orient. Drawings of Carolina residences, churches and street-life portraits are Verner trademarks recognized throughout the world for their artistic merit and unique color hues. Mrs. Verner's studio, located on Tradd Street in Charleston, is open to visitors as a living memorial to this outstanding South Carolinian.

## Jean McWhorter

ARTIST

**Jean McWhorter** is the designer of the hand-crafted bronze statue presented to each recipient, which has become the symbol of the Verner Awards. McWhorter, who was born in Laurel, Mississippi, studied at the University of Tennessee and received her BFA and MFA from the University of Georgia. Later she studied at the Brooklyn Museum Art School. She came to Columbia in 1961, where she joined the staff of the Columbia Museum's Richland Art School and taught at the University of South Carolina. Describing herself as a painter by training and a sculptor by instinct, she works in both media. McWhorter's bronze sculptures reveal a whimsical approach to the figure. Often elongated, they engage in fun, fanciful activities. Her paintings and mixed-media wall hangings explore historic or mythological subjects with bright color and detailed surface treatment. She continues to live and work in Columbia.



# The Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award Recipients

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 1972 | City of Greenville<br>Nick Zeigler<br>Converse College<br>Columbia Museum of Art  | 1980 | City of Bennettsville<br>Leo F. Twiggs<br>Beaufort County Schools<br>The Fine Arts Center of<br>Kershaw County<br>Bankers Trust<br>Sandlapper Magazine<br>Representative Harriet Keyserling<br>Marlboro County<br>Spoleto Festival USA   |
| 1974 | City of Charleston<br>John R. Craft<br>Elliott White Springs Foundation<br>Greenville County Museum of Art  | 1981 | Virginia Uldrick<br>Greenville Metropolitan Arts Council<br>Seibels, Bruce & Company<br>South Carolina Educational<br>Television Network<br>Senator Harris Page Smith<br>Sidney Palmer<br>Columbia Record<br>Brookgreen Gardens          |
| 1976 | City of Spartanburg<br>Terrell Glenn<br>Sam Bass<br>Spartanburg Arts Council<br>South Carolina National Bank<br>Rock Hill Evening Herald            | 1982 | Guthrie Darr<br>South Carolina Chamber Orchestra<br>Harbison Development Corporation<br>Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.<br>University of South Carolina<br>Guy F. Lipscomb, Jr.<br>The Island Packet<br>Bamberg County Chamber<br>of Commerce |
| 1979 | City of Easley<br>Arthur Magill<br>School District of Greenville County<br>Kitani Foundation<br>Springs Mills, Inc.<br>WIS-TV<br>Raymond O. Thigpen |      |  |



- 1983 Dean Harlan Ewart McClure  
Lancaster County Council of the Arts  
National Bank of South Carolina,  
Sumter  
South Carolina Wildlife & Marine  
Resources Department with Special  
Commendation to South Carolina  
Wildlife Magazine  
Theodore Stern
- 1984 Columbia College  
Anderson County Arts Council  
South Carolina National Bank  
Department of Parks, Recreation &  
Tourism  
Arpad Darazs  
Mayor Kirkman Finlay  
Spartanburg High School
- 1985-86 Island School Council of Hilton Head  
Marlboro Area Arts Council  
Robert Marvin  
Bill Hay  
Carol Saunders  
Charleston Symphony Orchestra  
Governor Richard W. Riley
- 1986-87 Spring Valley High School with Special  
Commendation to Marianne Holland  
Robert Ivey Ballet  
Tom McLean  
Sumter County Council  
O. Stanley Smith, Jr.  
South Carolina Governor's School  
for the Arts
- 1987-88 Ashley River Creative Arts  
Elementary School  
Columbia City Ballet, with Special  
Recognition of Ann Brodie  
Southern Bell  
City of Rock Hill  
Wilfred Delphin and Edwin Romain  
Peter Rickett - Lifetime Achievement
- 1988-89 Betty Bramlett  
McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah  
NCNB South Carolina  
Joint Legislative Committee on  
Cultural Affairs  
Byrne Miller
- 1989-90 Mac Arthur Goodwin  
Cultural Council of Richland &  
Lexington Counties, with Special  
Recognition of Dot Ryall  
Fluor Daniel, Inc.  
LS3P Architects, Ltd.  
Henry J. Cauthen  
Charles S. Way, Jr.  
Catharine Rembert - Lifetime  
Achievement
- 1990-91 Tri-District Arts Consortium  
Chopstick Theater  
Winthrop College  
AT&T  
Elliot, Davis and Company



- 1991-92** University of South Carolina  
String Project  
Rock Hill Arts Council  
Lancaster County Council and  
Lancaster City Council  
SCANA Corporation  
Clark Ellefson
- 1992-93** Ansley Crawford  
School District of Oconee County  
The Guild of the Greenville Symphony  
The Outreach Program of the  
SC Governor's  
School for the Arts  
Spectrum South, Inc.  
South Carolina National Bank  
Sibby Wood
- 1993-94** Fine Arts Center of the School District  
of Greenville County  
Spoleto Festival USA  
The Arts Education Reform Initiatives  
of the SC State Department of  
Education  
Carolina First Bank  
Sun, Inc.  
Samuel L. Tenenbaum
- 1994-95** Richland School District Two  
Horry Cultural Arts Council  
Charleston Post and Courier  
Calhoun County Museum  
& Cultural Center  
Elaine Taylor Freeman
- 1995-96** Ava Hughes  
Redcliffe Elementary School  
South Carolina Arts Alliance  
Ben Boozer  
David Stahl
- 1996-97** Ray Doughty  
McClellanville Arts Council  
NationsBank, N.A.  
Piggly Wiggly Carolina Co., Inc.  
Stephen R. McCrae, Sr.  
Representative Jean Laney Harris
- 1997-98** School District 5 of Richland and  
Lexington Counties  
Burroughs and Chapin Co, Inc.  
Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County  
John Acorn
- 1999** Arts Council of Beaufort County  
Richland County School District One  
Newberry Federal Savings Bank  
South Carolina State Museum  
Toni Marcus Elkins  
William Melton Halsey - Lifetime  
Achievement

# Verner Awards 1972 - 1999

