



What the HELL is art, anyway?

As we prepared for this, our second annual Artys issue, we had to think a lot about that question. Had we been too narrow in our inaugural effort in the number of categories we included, or in the simple act of listing nominees? How could this issue best capture the scope of creative work produced by Utah artists?

For 2007, we added new categories and subtracted the nominations. Some potential voters admitted being daunted by the absence of nominees, and we'll be eager to hear once again how we might be able to improve the process for next year. But our readers impressed us with their selections, proving that—as is true for artists themselves—the blank canvas can be as inspiring as it is terrifying.

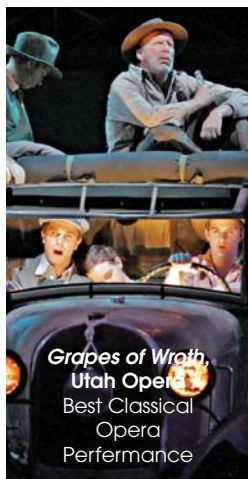
In a 1896 essay, Leo Tolstoy wrote that art is “a means of union among men, joining them together in the same feelings ... it is upon the capacity of man to receive another man’s expression of feeling, and experience those feelings himself, that the activity of art is based.” Gender-specific pronouns notwithstanding, it’s hard to think of a better definition: The response of an audience makes art what it is. Our readers have responded, and in so doing, they have helped us honor and celebrate all of the women and men in this state whose unique talents enriched the past year.

As many local arts organizations and individuals begin new seasons this fall; we thank all of them for the pleasure they bring us. We thank those who support them as patrons, audience members, friends and family. And we hope that in some small way, this issue conveys how much we appreciate the way you join us together in feeling.

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Allison Dayton
Best Jewelry Designer



Grapes of Wrath
Utah Opera
Best Classical Opera Performance



Saturday's Voyeur
2007
Best Mayoral Send-Off





Emiley Golie
Best Hairstylist



CHRIS JAMIESON

READERS' CHOICE

print of life-size heart and lungs rendered in antique French iron-work receives his due. Despite being born in Idaho and art-educated in Los Angeles, visionary fashion poet Jared Gold makes his home in Utah where he has launched the Black Chandelier clothing store in 2003 in Trolley Square. He's since joined forces with Nexia Holdings to open three other shops including the Gateway concept store. He offers an alternative to big-box retail, featuring small runs of unique clothing and "covetable" objects. His "wearable mystery" has entranced our readers, like Alfred Hitchcock once did with TV viewers on Friday night. **BlackChandelier.com**

BEST JEWELRY DESIGNER

Allison Dayton

Dayton's creations are like a jewelry box gone native—or wild. Like a bunch of pearls just up and decided to leave the sea and string themselves around your neck. Or random bits of silver from a forgotten past or a future factory floor collided on your wrist. Dayton works with unusual material including bone, porcelain, dyed batik, glass, nuts, seeds and oxidized hammered steel to create organic yet startling designs, like a bracelet of bright shards of coral, or a necklace displaying a "ball of string" of fine silver strands. Her signature is a silver rosebud worn as a ring or hanging from a coral necklace. **AllisonDayton.com**.

LITERARY ARTS

BEST FICTION

***Eclipse*, by Stephenie Meyer**

It might come as a shock that the author of steamy, teen-angst-driven vampire romance novels also happens to be a happily married, Mormon mother of three who cites her faith as a huge influence on her work. BYU graduate Stephenie Meyer is that author, and *Eclipse* is the third novel in her acclaimed "Twilight" series. Continuing the modern-day tale of Bella, her vampire love Edward, and her lycanthrope admirer Jacob Black, *Eclipse* has captured the imagination of fans from around the world and received praise from *The New York Times Sunday Book Review*, not to mention recognition by *EW* readers. **StephenieMeyer.com**

BEST NONFICTION

***No More Goodbyes*, by Carol Lynn Pearson**

Despite society's increasingly sane treatment of homosexuals, gay members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints still find themselves targeted by a barrage of uninformed criticism, ostracized from their communities and families, and forced to make the

often-unbearable choice between their religion and a normal love life. In her 20-year follow-up to *Good-bye, I Love You*, Pearson makes an impassioned case for the humane treatment of gays within the church, invoking a tradition of Mormon compassion. Many of the stories and case histories are tragic, but one hopeful thread runs throughout: That Pearson, a devout Mormon, has found a way to resolve the conflict between Mormons and gays—and perhaps to heal the painful rifts that conflict has produced.

BEST POETRY

***The Invention of the Kaleidoscope*, by Paisley Rekdal**

For some, the world of poetry is daunting, with all its abstract imagery and tricky techniques. Sestinas, Pleiades, quatrains, AABB or ABAB ... what? But poetry doesn't have to be—or appear to be—complicated. Check out Rekdal, a University of Utah English professor whose straightforward, narrative writing style unfolds situations even casual readers can relate to—family ties, generation gaps, cultural tangles—in language easy as Sunday morning. Her third collection of poetry (she also published a book of essays), *Kaleidoscope* continues her exploration of anecdotal stories, only this time focusing on failed elegies and the convolution of self-preservation.

PERFORMING ARTS

BEST THEATER PRODUCTION

***Facing East*, Plan-B Theater Company**

BEST ORIGINAL PLAY

***Facing East*, Carol Lynn Pearson**

BEST THEATER PERFORMANCE

***Facing East* Ensemble**

The New York critics and audiences liked it. Same goes for San Francisco. Come 2009 at the Singapore Fringe Festival, East Asia will find out for itself, as well. However, the people of little ol' Salt Lake City were the first to appreciate Plan-B Theatre Company's *Facing East*, as this clean sweep demonstrates. Carol Lynn Pearson's moving script was brilliantly realized by the team effort of Jayne Luke, Charles Lynn Frost and Jay Pery. The show was able to grapple with familiar local tensions while remaining grounded in universal themes familiar and affecting to even the uninitiated. Bravo, Plan-B. Keep up the good work. **PlanBTheatreCompany.org**

BEST THEATER FESTIVAL

Utah Shakespearean Festival

Summer + Utah = outdoors. We hike, bike and swim; we pull weeds in our gardens. But for the best part of all, we sit down and watch world-class Shakespeare productions under starry, starry nights in a Globe-like theater in Cedar City. The Tony award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival just completed its 46th summer repertory and is gearing up for fall productions that include *Art*, *The Tempest* and *The Mousetrap*, running Sept. 14 to Oct. 27. A \$6 million budget delivers top-notch productions. >>

