



BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Betty Bowen (1918–1977), a Washington native, used her energy, intensity, wit and charm in the service of her obsessions: historic preservation, animal protection and the spiritual and financial health of artists. On her death in 1977 Bowen’s friends established the annual Betty Bowen Memorial Award for Artists as a celebration of her dynamic life and to honor and continue her efforts to provide financial support to Northwest artists.

Artists who live in Washington, Oregon or Idaho are invited each year to participate in this juried award. Portland artist Marie Watt was selected from among 500 applications as the recipient of the 2005 Betty Bowen Memorial Award, which comes with an unrestricted \$11,000 award. Marie Watt was born in Washington, but received her MFA in painting and printmaking at Yale University School of Art in 1996. Her recent work explores human stories and rituals implicit in everyday objects. Using blankets as a medium, she collects, stacks and stitches the wool together in multi-dimensional ways that evoke memory and markers of life. Both sculptural and tactilely two-dimensional, her work combines the material’s history with indigenous design, oral traditions and personal experience. Watt currently lives in Portland, Oregon, and teaches at Portland Community College.

Two PONCHO special Recognition Awards in the amount of \$1500 each were given to sculptural artist Evan Blackwell and video artist David Russo.

2005 BETTY BOWEN COMMITTEE

–Michael Alhadeff–Jeffrey Bishop–Tim Bradbury
–Gary Glant–Peggy Golberg–Anne Gould Hauberg
–Victoria Haven–Mark Levine–Llewelyn Pritchard
–Greg Robinson–Norie Sato–William True
–Tom Wilson–Merrill Wright–Robert Yoder

Marie Watt, *U.S.A., Flag*, 2003.
reclaimed wool blankets, satin
binding (hand sewn), 132 x 126 in.,
© Marie Watt, 2003

“THERE IS STILL A YOUNG ARTIST AMONG US WHO HAS BEEN OVERLOOKED.”

–BETTY BOWEN

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

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