

Contact:
Cheryl Hart, Development and Marketing Manager
chart@creativeartsworkshop.org
(203) 562-4927



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barbara Harder of Creative Arts Workshop Named First Recipient of The Bitsie Clark Fund for Artists Award

(NEW HAVEN, CT, December 10, 2018) – Creative Arts Workshop is proud to announce that Barbara Harder, head of CAW’s printmaking department, has been named the first recipient of The Bitsie Clark Fund for Artists Award. The award was announced at the Arts Council Greater New Haven’s 38th Annual Arts Award ceremony held Friday, December 7th, at the New Haven Lawn Club.

The Bitsie Clark Fund for Artists Award was recently created in the name of Francis “Bitsie” Clark. Clark was the Executive Director of the Arts Council for 20 years, one of the founders of the Audubon Arts District, and instrumental in establishing the arts as a driving economic force in Greater New Haven. The award, which provides to this year’s recipient a grant of \$2,500, was established by five women who were Clark’s proteges at various times over the past 30 years: Mimsie Coleman, Robin Golden, Barbara Lamb, Betty Monz, and Maryann Ott. They proudly call themselves the Bitsie Chicks.

While Clark is well known for her tireless civic work in the arts and politics, many of her most meaningful actions stemmed from her everyday interactions with people who sought her advice. As she nurtured individual artists and gave counsel to arts organizations, she often inspired them to forge creative partnerships.

The Bitsie Clark Fund for Artists hopes to do the same. The Fund will enrich the Greater New Haven community by investing in its artists. Open to individuals from all art disciplines, each artist will work in collaboration with a non-profit organization that will provide institutional support.

“We are honored to award the first artist grant to the distinguished artist/printmaker, and teacher, Barbara Harder, and to her collaborative partner, Creative Arts Workshop, represented by executive director Anne Coates,” said Clark.

Harder received her Bachelor’s Degree in Studio Art from Marymount College in 1970, has taught at CAW since 1976, and has lectured, curated and exhibited in Connecticut and New England. Her work has been shown abroad in Scotland, England, Australia, India, and Japan. She has been head of CAW’s printmaking department since 1995.

“Especially for us in South Central Connecticut, Barbara has been a stalwart for two generations of students interested in learning the art of printmaking,” Clark continued.

Barbara will use the \$2,500 grant to visit Japan and study *washi*, a traditional Japanese paper known for its strength that uses local fiber and is processed by hand in the traditional manner.

“Some Japanese papermakers have been designated as “National Treasures” for their excellence in papermaking, sometimes using secrets handed down in families for generations,” Harder said. “I would like to visit as many of these papermaking artisans as possible, and bring examples of their special work to share with artists and craftspeople from around Connecticut.”

“We at Creative Arts Workshop are thrilled for Barbara and this well-deserved recognition and achievement. We are pleased to partner with her, and excited that she will bring learning about *washi* back to printmaking at CAW,” said CAW’s executive director, Anne Coates.

The Bitsie Chicks are in the process of developing grant guidelines for 2019. Applications for next year’s grant will be available on their website, thebitsieclarkfund.org, in March 2019.

ABOUT CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP

Creative Arts Workshop is a nonprofit regional center for the visual arts that has served the Greater New Haven area since 1961. As an anchor institution located in the heart of the award-winning Audubon Arts District, CAW offers a wide range of visual arts classes in its own three-story building with fully-equipped studios in eight disciplines, and an active exhibition and public programming schedule. More than 1,700 adults and young people enroll annually in the more than 350 courses offered by Creative Arts Workshop, while thousands of visitors enjoy the free exhibitions in its destination galleries throughout the year. CAW’s classes are open to students of all ages and levels of experience.

###