

HONORING THE BEST

Amid glamour and anticipation, an audience of 700+ cheered, as the Accessories Resource Team (ART) and the Dallas Market Center (DMC) bestowed accolades to retailers and manufacturers for excellence in lighting and home décor during the 19th Annual ARTS Awards. The Grand Pavilion at the DMC Trade Mart was transformed into an Asian-themed paradise glowing in tones of gold and cinnabar. Coinciding with the DMC's Total Home & Gift and International Lighting Markets, the affair was a lush spectacle from the start.

The presenters were comprised of top designers, retailers, and personalities: Bill Winsor, DMC president and CEO; Sharon Davis, executive director of ART; Cindy Morris, COO, DMC; Barry Dixon, nationally renowned designer; Edward Walker, *Trading Spaces*; and Colleen Visage of Progress Lighting and ART board president.

"It's wonderful to work in an industry that continues to grow and excel because of people's creativity and hard work. We applaud all of this year's winners and finalists," notes Davis.

"We are proud to celebrate the decorative accessories industry each year in Dallas and partner with ART," adds Winsor. "The ARTS Awards is one of the highlights of our January market and we congratulate all the deserving winners."



Brent Smith of Southern Lighting Gallery credits his win in the Lighting Showroom, East/Atlantic region category to everyone associated with the store. "We have worked very hard... and particularly thank our showroom manager Cindy Drummond."

19TH ANNUAL ARTS AWARD WINNERS

LIGHTING SHOWROOMS

Southern Lighting Gallery, Augusta, Ga. – *East/Atlantic*
Metro Lighting, Brentwood, Mo. – *Midwest/Southwest*
Sun Lighting, Tucson, Ariz. – *West*

FURNITURE STORES

At Home Nashville, Nashville, Tenn. – *East/Atlantic*
McManus Company, Beaumont, Tex. – *Midwest/Southwest*
C.S. Wo & Sons, Honolulu – *West*

HOME ACCENT SPECIALTY STORES

Accessories Etc., Bethlehem, Pa. – *East/Atlantic*
Signed Sealed Delivered, Rogers, Ark. – *Midwest/Southwest*
Moses at Home, Albuquerque, N.M. – *West*

RISING STAR RETAILER

Pam Vincent, Culinary Connection, Plano, Tex.

MANUFACTURERS

Oriental Accent, Dallas – *Portables*
Fine Art Lamps, Miami Lakes, Fla. – *Fixtures*
Four Hands, Austin, Tex. – *Accent Furniture*
Feizy Rugs, Dallas – *Area Rugs*
Phillips Collection, High Point, N.C. – *Decorative Accessories*
Etoffe Makara, University Place, Wash. – *Home Textiles*
Seasonal Living Trading, Austin, Tex. – *Outdoor Living*
SIA Home Fashion, Castle Rock, Colo. – *Permanent Floral*
Juliska, Stamford, Conn. – *Tabletop*
Artdreams Home, Ventura, Calif. – *Wall Décor*

PRODUCT DESIGNER

Kathleen Koszyk, Artdreams Home, Ventura, Calif.

SALES REPS

Russ Jones, OneCoast Northeast Home – *East/Atlantic*
Amber Leone, Codarus – *Midwest/Southwest*
Tom Wright, Liteforce Sales – *West*

ACADEMY OF ACHIEVEMENT

Arlette Baker, Carl's Furniture, Boca Raton, Fla.



"We want to thank our employees who have worked so hard to put our [ARTS nominee] book together and the manufacturers who have stayed with us," beams Danny Levkowitz of Sun Lighting as he and his wife, Anita, accept the award for Lighting Showroom, West. "I also want to thank my parents who began Sun Lighting 53 years ago."



A shocked Michael Yip, vice president and general manager of Oriental Accent, thanks his staff and designers for their days and nights preparing the portfolio for ARTS judges, adding, "I am truly honored to accept this."



For the ninth time, Fine Art Lamps chairman Max Blumberg receives the ARTS Award and thanks the DMC and ART for a program that honors the decorative accessories field. He acknowledged the company's 800 employees and territory managers who have made the line popular in 63 countries and "showing it can still be done in America by Americans."



Patty Birkhead, visual merchandiser and head of purchasing for Metro Lighting, shares the stage for the second year in a row, as president Bill Frisella credits his manufacturers, reps, and especially his employees for winning the Lighting Showroom in the Midwest/Southwest designation. "I especially want to thank Patty, designer extraordinaire. We wouldn't be here without her."



Arlette Baker of Carl's Furniture becomes a member of the ARTS Academy of Achievement. Baker is responsible for introducing accessories to the store and ultimately for the Boca Raton, Fla.-based retailer's five ARTS Awards in the furniture store category. "It's a thrill to be surrounded by such a group of talented people," she says, crediting her staff, "and it's been a lot of fun."



Finalists in the Rising Star category, Don Hatfield (left) and Sam Stidham of Needless Necessities in Dallas enjoy the evening's festivities.



Lindsey Villarreal (left) of the Dallas Market Center (DMC) and Camille Matthews of Camille's Collection, Scottsdale, Ariz., and a finalist in the West region for Home Accent Specialty Store show off their red carpet fashions.



Sales rep Brian Mishwork (right) wishes luck to Greg Lovell and Erin Davis of Global Views, a finalist for Decorative Accessories. Arteriors Home, one of Mishwork's lines, is a 2008 contender in Lighting Fixtures.



Toasting their first ARTS Award nomination are Yuh-Mei Liao Hutt, president of Golden Lighting, and her husband, Lester.



Celebrating two awards in a row is the crew from Metro Lighting in Brentwood, Mo. (from left to right): Paul Frisella, Zoltan Ripsce, Will Jackson, Bill Frisella, and Matt Gagnepain.



A finalist for rep in the East/Atlantic region, the lighting industry's Richard St. Pierre of Richard Enterprises looks quite dapper on awards night.



Fourteen-year-old Colin Morris escorts his mom Cindy, COO of the DMC, to the night's activities. Although impressed with the affair, he said he would still rather be playing his Wii™.



Tom Wright (left) of Liteforce Sales, the winner for the sales rep award in the West, and Kathy Imes of Lauren Brooks, a finalist in the Product Designer category, get encouragement from Jim Fleming of Kalco Lighting.



Sales rep Martha Graham (left), Kurt Ohnesorge of Wilson Lighting in Naples, Fla., and Pam St. Martin of John-Richard help to get the party started. One of Graham's lines, Savoy House, is a finalist in the Lighting Fixtures category.



Here's to the winners! The gentlemen from Meyda Tiffany (from left to right) are: Paul Fostini, John Vella, Robert Cohen, Max Cohen, and Joel Nekritz.



An enthusiastic team from Fine Art Lamps toasts to another win. From left to right are: Mary Leon, Elizabeth Spill, Karen Klein, Sylvia Suarez, John Pugh, Linda Pogue-Krebs, Jennifer Torlone, Laura Goldblum, and Rene Quintana.



Ken Taylor, a member of the ART Academy of Achievement, never stops. Taking time out to cheer on the award nominees, Taylor's current project is a new line of portables for Kinder-Harris called Madares.

Laura Cowan and Mandy Parker of Naperies enjoy the evening. The company, based in the DMC World Trade Center, represents several lighting and linens companies, including Just Too Cute and LKD. "Right now we are receiving a lot of orders for custom lighting projects," Cowan reports.

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