New Paltz professor receives USA Fellowship

SUNY New Paltz has announced that Professor Myra Mimlitsch-Gray is the recipient of the 2012 United States Artists (USA) Fellowship. The honor carries with it an award of $50,000 in unrestricted grant funds. Mimlitsch-Gray received the award in the category of crafts and traditional arts.

Mimlitsch-Gray is a renowned metalsmith who has received numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1994 and a Louis Comfort Tiffany Prize in 1995. Her artwork is included in the permanent collections of many museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England and New Paltz’s Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art.

Mary Hafeli, dean of the College’s School of Fine and Performing Arts, commented on the award: “USA Fellowships are at the top of all honors bestowed on those working in the visual, performing and literary arts, so to be recognized in this way is an undeniably stellar accomplishment. Myra is most deserving of this honor. Her work is widely recognized to be at the leading edge of contemporary art that challenges assumed boundaries between craft, design, art and function. The USA Fellowship, in so publicly acknowledging this impact and offering substantial financial support, will afford Myra the means to ‘dream big’ as she takes on projects and creates new work going forward.”

Mimlitsch-Gray is a co-director, with Professor Jamie Bennett, of the metal graduate program at New Paltz.