

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY – Acceptance speech by Pat Durr, the CCA's 2006 Keith Kelly Award recipient given at Queen's Park (Toronto, Ontario) on September 15, 2006.



I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Canadian Conference of the Arts for giving me this honour, and to Canadian Artists' Representation/Le front des artistes canadiens for nominating me. Having known Keith Kelly for many years and having had the opportunity to work with him, it is an especially great honour to be a recipient of the Keith Kelly Award for Cultural Leadership.

However, I would not be standing here if it were not for the efforts of many others, both visual artists and non-artists, who laid the foundation for my efforts. Their foundation enabled me to achieve the gains for the visual arts that I fought for at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

I represent a long line of visual artists who have volunteered their creativity, their time, and their energies to improving the cultural climate for all the arts. Foremost among those artists must be Jack Chambers, who founded CARFAC, the national voice of all visual artists. Over the years many others such as Tony Tascona from Winnipeg; Jennifer Dickson from Ottawa; Karl Beveridge and Jane Martin from Toronto; Charlotte Wilson Hammond from Nova Scotia and Pierre-Leon Tetreault from Quebec have raised their voices and joined their creative energies with mine for the common goal to improve the social and economic status of the visual arts. Non-artists, too, from Jane Condon, the first National Director of CARFAC to April Britski, the current National Director have worked long hours to achieve those goals.

I humbly accept this award on behalf of all of those and the hundreds of unnamed across this country who have given of their selves. Thank you.