



## 2009-2010 John Ringling Towers Fund Award Recipients

We are pleased to announce the 2009 - 2010 John Ringling Towers Fund awards for Historic Preservation and Individual Artists in Literary Arts, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts.

This year's recipients include:

Historic Preservation: **\$5,000 to Florida Studio Theatre (FST)** for the installation of historically appropriate hurricane protection to the main doors of the Keating Theatre. FST has been an active steward for the preservation of their buildings and the Keating Theatre is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the oldest cultural building in Sarasota.

Individual Artist, Performing Arts: **\$5,000 to Sharon Scott** to complete her stage performance of Mahalia Jackson. Sharon is an Equity actor who has performed in local, regional, national and international venues.

Individual Artist, Visual Arts: **\$5,000 to Meg Pierce**. Meg uses materials that were previously relegated to women's work of the 19th century such as buttons and pins and turns them into very contemporary, highly stylized designs. With these funds she will create a large-scale triptych, using found materials to explore the elements of repetition and variation.

Individual Artist, Literary Arts: **\$3,000 to Justin Spring** to experiment with writing a novel that combines fiction and non-fiction and uses multimedia elements to tell a story. **\$2,000 to Neal Schleifer** to write a book of poetry.

Thank you to all of this year's applicants.

**The John Ringling Towers Fund Individual Artist Award** was designed to recognize practicing, professional, creative artists residing in Sarasota County through monetary fellowship awards. The program provides support for artists of exceptional talent and demonstrated ability to continue to produce work.

The **John Ringling Towers Historic Preservation Grant** is given to nonprofit organizations or governmental agencies located in Sarasota County, to be used for historic rehabilitation, capital (bricks and mortar), preventive maintenance projects or national register designations.