





## International 'Tony' Award for art given to El Dorado artist

By Staff reports

**El Dorado Times**

Posted Jun 08, 2011 @ 07:00 PM

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El Dorado, Kan. — Since its inception in 2009, the “Tony” Award has traveled from the United States through Canada, Mexico, Australia and many places in between. Most recently this international award, given in recognition of artistic merit, arrived in El Dorado, Kansas.

El Dorado artist Jim Clements received the award, which is presented to members of the online art group Fine Art America.

“It was a tremendous surprise and honor to be nominated for the award,” Clements said. “There have been a number of great artists who have received this award in the past and I’m proud to now be a part of that group.”

The award was created by Tony Murray, who is from New York, to recognize artists in Fine Art America, an online artist community of nearly 47,000 members worldwide. It is passed to select artists, with the last recipient nominating the next recipient. In all, there have been 25 artists recognized for their various qualities or contributions.

Clements was nominated by Margaret Stockdale, who is from Krumbach, NS, Australia.

In her nomination, she stated, “The artist whose work I greatly admire lives in Kansas, so the Tony will be heading out across the Pacific again. I am a great fan of American Western art so I could not pass up the opportunity to promote an artist who specializes in that genre. ... I love your work, Jim, the values it promotes, your fresh technique and your love of humanity and your country really comes through in your paintings.”

The award will remain in Kansas through June, when it will go on to the next recipient, who Clements will select.

Each artist engraves his or her name on the base of the sculpture before passing it on. The artist also takes a picture of himself or herself with the award and posts that, along with an acceptance speech on the Fine Art America Web site.

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