



DALLAS MARKET CENTER

N E W S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Dallas Market Center and Accessories Resource Team
Announce Judges for 19th Annual ARTS Awards**

DALLAS—May 15, 2007—Dallas Market Center, the world's largest wholesale merchandise resource, together with the Accessories Resource Team (ART), today announced a distinguished panel of judges that will determine the winners of the 19th Annual ARTS Awards to be revealed on January 19, 2008. The ARTS Awards, presented at a gala event each January during the Dallas International Gift and Home Accessories Market, is the premier awards program for the home decorative accessories industry. Judges for this year's awards are:

Janace Clarke is an associate professor of fashion merchandising at Texas Christian University and also serves as the chair of the Department of Design, Merchandising and Textiles at TCU. She recently published the book *Developing and Branding the Fashion Merchandising Portfolio*. Originally from New York, she has an undergraduate degree in Merchandising and Design from State University of New York, College at Oneonta, a Masters in Fashion Design and Ph.D. in Fashion and Textiles from Texas Woman's University. Her scholarly interests include branding, product design and development.

Kelly Ryan Kegans is Senior Decorating Editor for *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine. In this role, Kelly works with a team of editors to scout locations and remodeling stores featured in the magazine, which reaches 38 million readers. Prior to joining *Better Home & Gardens*, Kelly was editor and project manager in the *Better Homes & Gardens* Special Interest Media group, editing magazines that include *Beautiful Interiors*, *Décor*, *Bargain Style* and *Color Schemes*. Kelly also served as editor of *Dallas Home Design* magazine and worked for 10 years as a newspaper reporter at the *Dallas Morning News* and other newspapers in Texas. A graduate of the University of North Texas, Kelly resides in Des Moines, Iowa, with her husband and son.

Kristin Langerak DeMesse is business development manager for licensed products for Winterthur Museum. Since joining Winterthur in 1988, Kristin has worked in Marketing in various capacities including project manager and general manager of retail stores before assuming her present position. Past projects include the interior design, construction management and display for Winterthur's first High Point showroom. She is currently responsible for managing Winterthur's relationship with a number of licensed companies including The Hickory Chair Company. Kristin is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Delaware where she majored in Art History. Previous jobs include architectural space planning and construction management for both residential and commercial properties.

Cheryl A. Van Duyne, ASID Interior Designer, is an independent, award-winning designer with an extensive portfolio of residential work in Texas and several other states including CA, AZ, NM, OK, VT and HI. Her work has been featured in numerous books, area design publications and national magazines as well as HGTV. She was voted one of the best interior designers in Dallas by her peers in 2004, 2005 and 2007 as recognized by *D Home* magazine. She has practiced design in Dallas for almost 25 years.

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Edward Walker Edward Walker has carved a role for himself as the dapper gentleman of the *Trading Spaces* television program on HGTV. His tailored clothing and signature ponytail reflect his design aims, mixing classic elegance with urban chic. After earning his undergraduate degree in art from Wingate University in North Carolina, Edward studied at New York City's Fashion Institute of Technology. For the next decade he worked his way up through the design houses of midtown Manhattan, developing a specialty in beaded gowns and formalwear. In the late 90's, Edward decided to return to his roots, and open a design business in Raleigh, N.C. that reflects his love of the south with his new metropolitan tastes. It was during this time that *Trading Spaces* tapped Edward to join the cast as a seamster during its second season. As the show grew in popularity, Edward shared his desire to do more than sew behind the scenes and auditioned for the role of designer. The dapper gentleman was born!

The ARTS Awards nomination process began in March and will end during the Dallas June Super Market. Finalists are nominated in 25 categories including retailer, manufacturer and sales representative. Industry professionals and retailers are invited to nominate decorative accessory manufacturers, product designers and sales representatives. Manufacturers, sales representatives and industry professionals are invited to nominate retailers. Neither membership in ART nor representation at DMC is necessary. Nominations can be submitted by going online to www.dallasmarketcenter.com or http://www.accessoriesresourceteam.org/cms/ARTS_Awards.php Finalists will be announced at the end of August.

In November, the judges convene in Dallas for two days to separately review each company's detailed portfolio on their company, business philosophies and products. Once judging is completed, a designated accounting firm will tabulate the sealed ballots. Winners will be announced Academy Awards-style at the next ARTS Awards gala in Dallas, Saturday, January 19, 2008 to be held in The Grand Pavilion at the Trade Mart.

The 19th Annual ARTS Awards are co-sponsored by: *Accessory Merchandising; Contract Lighting; FurnitureStyle; Gifts & Decorative Accessories; HFN; Home Accents Today; Home Fashions & Furniture Trends; Home Lighting & Accessories; and Residential Lighting.*

About the ARTS Awards

The ARTS Awards is the premiere awards program dedicated to the home decorative accessories industry. 25 categories exist under the headings Manufacturer, Retailer, Product Designer, Sales Representative, Rising Star, Academy of Achievement and Hall of Fame. Manufacturers are nominated by retailers, sales representatives, designers, suppliers, consultants and other industry officials. Sales representatives are nominated by manufacturers, retailers and other industry officials. Product designers are nominated by all. Rising Star, Academy of Achievement and Hall of Fame are selected by the judging committee. Companies that have won the ARTS Awards five or more times will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Companies inducted in January 2006 were Palecek and Schonbek. Charter members are: Distinctive Designs International Inc., Fine Art Lamps, Montaaage, Natural Decorations Inc., and Robb & Stucky.

About the Accessories Resource Team

The Accessories Resource Team (ART) is the association representing accessory manufacturers, retailers, representatives and other industry individuals and companies interested in promoting the accessory industry. The association's goal is to enhance the market position of decorative home accessories. Each year ART sponsors programs such as the ART conference, regional educational seminars and the ARTS Awards. The Accessories Resource Team Web site is available at www.accessoriesresourceteam.org.

About Dallas Market Center

Founded in 1957, Dallas Market Center is the world's largest wholesale merchandise resource. Within its marketplace of nearly seven million square feet, retailers from around the globe source products ranging from home furnishings, gifts, decorative accessories and lighting to textiles, fashion accessories and men's, western, women's and children's apparel. With more than 50 markets each year attended by more than 200,000 retail buyers from all 50 states and 84 countries, Dallas Market Center offers hundreds of events and seminars geared toward helping retailers expand business and increase profits. As a result, more than \$7.5 billion in estimated wholesale transactions are conducted annually within the Dallas Market Center complex. Dallas Market Center's Web site is available at www.dallasmarketcenter.com.