

The Roth Endowment's 21<sup>st</sup> program year, from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 was marked by several noteworthy successes. Our collaboration with the State University of New York on a long-awaited Turkish project came to fruition. The program is now based out of the Levin Center in New York City and was able to provide sponsorship to renowned political humanist Umit Cizare of Bilkent Univeristy in Ankara.

Bulgarian author Elizabeth Kostova, known for her best-selling novel *The Historian*, proposed collaboration between the Roth Endowment and her Kostova Foundation. This resulted in the awarding of our first Dyankov prize for best translation from English at the Sofia Book Fair in December 2007. We anticipate adding a pendant prize for best translation from Bulgarian into English in late 2009 to support cross-cultural literary exchange. Additionally, the Roth Endowment helped to fund the first Seminar for Writers in Sozopol in a week in June 2008. The meeting of twelve English-language and Bulgarian writers was profoundly successful and we anticipate continuing the program in future years.

One marked success was the revival of Roth Award for overseas cultural diplomats by Goli Ameri of the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), following a two-year hiatus. In conjunction with this award, the Roth Endowment granted its first Ilchman-Richardson award for US-based cultural diplomacy, honoring the memory of past ECA directors Alice Stone Ilchman and John Richardson.

Other highlights from our 2007-2008 program year include:

- Sponsorship of mixed-media artist Thea Augustina Eck for her project on the collision between Danish, Greenlandish, and Arctic cultures in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Working in conjunction with the Helsinki Fulbright Commission, the Roth Endowment awarded two \$1500 grants. Grant recipient Celia Kujala of Dartmouth University continued her study on the Effect of Education on Health.

Carrie Schneider of the Art Institute of Chicago was awarded a grant for her piece entitled *Hot vs. Cold: Embodying the Finnish Landscape*. Schneider's exhibit entitled *Elaborate Flirtations* was on display at the Galeria FAFA in Helsinki, and was reviewed by the largest Scandinavian daily newspaper. She anticipates her solo exhibit at the Finnish Museum of Tykka and the Finnish Museum of Photography in early 2009.

- The 2008 recipient of the New Zealand Winks Award was Bethany Edwards of Northern Tech, known internationally for her displays of kurowa (woven cloaks) and who is working toward a Master's degree in Visual Culture.
- The 2008 grant recipient of the Norway grant was Jeff Lugowe, a graduate of Brown University. He intends to explore the assimilation of Polish migrants into Norwegian society as part of his case study on intra-European society.
- Eric Jonsson and the Fulbright Commission are now spearheading the Roth Endowment's long-standing Sweden program. The 2008 grant recipient was Jean Kjellstrand for her research project entitled *Child Resilience: Pathways to Health in Sweden and the United States*.
- The Roth Endowment's \$1500 Million award combined with the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fellowship to sponsor Dr. Luigi Sperti of the University of Venice to continue his studies in architectural decoration in the early Venetian Renaissance.
- The \$1500 American Institute of American Studies award was given to the co-translators of Simin Behbehani's series of poems, *A Cup of Sins*.
- The recipient of the 2008 Prix Maurice Coindreau award went to Agnès Desarthe for her translation of Cynthia Ozick's novel, *The Puttermesser Papers*, into French.