2007-2008 Gerd Muehsam Award Committee:
Kevin Madill, Maria Oldal, Jenny Tobias, Barbara Reed, Barbara Rockenbach, Ken Soehner (Board Liaison), Laura Tatum, Amy Trendler, Tony White (Chair).

2006-2007 Gerd Muehsam Award Committee:
Carole Ann Fabian (Board Liaison), Kevin Madill, Maria Oldal, Jenny Tobias, Barbara Reed, Barbara Rockenbach, Laura Tatum, Amy Trendler, Tony White (Chair),

Activities of the past year (April 2007-March 2008):

May 5-9, 2007, 35th Annual Conference, Atlanta:
Following the Atlanta Conference Tony White began his second and last year as Chair of the Committee. Barbara Rockenbach and Barbara Reed both attended a scheduled meeting of the Committee at the Atlanta conference.

White’s proposed calendar for the coming year was distributed and agreed upon. It was generally agreed that the voting system works quite well and needed no tweaking.

White explained that the current contact list for library schools and professors was in need of updating. White suggested that the list would be evenly divided among the Committee members and that each person would be in charge of forwarding updated contact information to White so that an updated master list could be shared with HQ.

White suggested that the email contact list, generated by Henry Pisciotta and the Internship Award Committee (IAC), be used in addition to the mailing list traditionally used by the GMA and TAC. Pisciotta’s list was generated for the IAC the previous year and attempted to include every email address for every faculty member in all the library science programs in North America, including Puerto Rico. It was generally agreed that White would try using the
IAC’s email list in addition to the mailing list of schools and professors currently maintained by the GMA and TAC.
June, 2007:
The GMA announcement, with cover letter for faculty, deans or administrators, was sent electronically to those on the contact list, and to all faculty and chairs listed on Pisciotta’s email list as well.

Late September, 2007:
The GMA announcement was again sent to the contact list, with a cover letter as a reminder, urging the recipients to encourage students to enter their papers.

November, 2007:
19 submissions were received by the deadline; 1 submission arrived after the deadline; 17 were judged to be eligible according to the stated submission criteria. Of the 17 qualified submissions, 16 were papers and 1 was a web-based project.

Mid-December, 2007:
During the first week of December White created a secure Google Group account and posted PDFs of all submissions; a PDF of the ballot was also provided. Committee members were invited to and given access to the papers in this Google Group so they could print them on their own. White made the deadline for return of ballots by GMA committee members to White by mid-February, 2008.

Mid-February, 2008:
White tallied the votes. The winner of the 2007 Gerd Muehsam Award was Rachel Masilamani, a student at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Science. Rachel was immediately notified that her paper *(Documenting Illegal Art: Collaborative Software, Online Environments and New York City’s 1970’s and 1980’s Graffiti Art Movement)* had been chosen as the GMA recipient. Shortly after the committee members, the other applicants, headquarters, the president and the chair of the Awards Committee were all notified of this outcome. Masilamani was also encouraged to contact Judy Dyki and Kathy Zimon, editors of *Art Documentation*, with her abstract for consideration for possible publication.

Denver Conference, May 1-5, 2008:
Tony White will continue as chair of the GMA Committee during the Denver Conference and through the Membership meeting; following the Membership meeting Kevin Madill will assume all responsibilities as Chair of the Gerd Muehsam Award Committee for 2008/09 and 2009/10. The Committee is scheduled to meet on Sunday, May 4, from 8.15a.m. - 9:00 a.m., in the Pikes Peak room. New members will be introduced; a calendar for the upcoming year will be passed around; mailing list updates and Committee member duties will be discussed.

Further commentary:
The submissions received for this past year’s Gerd Muehsam Award were all from schools we contacted. Previous to my term as Chair, the GMA was concerned about the issue of better advertisement. I feel that using both the GMA/TAC mailing list and the IAC mailing list has alleviated this concern.

A number of the submissions came from students enrolled in courses that were not specifically in ‘Art Librarianship’ or ‘Visual Resources’, but were from students who had enrolled in such courses as: archives, preservation, special collections, art history and related areas.

Chairing the Gerd Muehsam Award Committee is, periodically, time-consuming. It is, however, in my opinion, a very satisfying and fulfilling ARLIS committee to chair. As a faculty member who was actively involved in teaching an Art Librarianship course at Indiana University’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science, it is fascinating to see what the hot topics are in other library schools, to follow current research trends, and it is equally enjoyable to read the commentary and tally the scores from the GMA committee members. I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to serve the ARLIS/NA community as Chair of the Gerd Muehsam Award Committee for these past two years. I am confident that my successor, Kevin Madill, will do an excellent job.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony White
Chair, Gerd Muehsam Award Committee

Cc:
Ken Soehner (Board Liaison)
Susan Moon (Chair, Awards Committee)