

6.4 OLIVER ROCK ART PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

The Oliver Award recognizes exceptional works that master the art and science of rock art photography. The winner of the award will receive a \$500 cash prize and recognition at the annual conference. A copy of the winning entry will become part of ARARA's archive at the Deer Valley Rock Art Center, Arizona, although copyright of the material remains the property of the photographer. The recipient (or legal owner of the original images if not the photographer) will grant ARARA the right to exhibit the winning entry and to reproduce it in ARARA publications. All other rights to the use of the image(s) remain the property of the photographer or other legal owner of the original images.

Recent advances in digital photography have led the judges to expand the scope of the Oliver Award to include all forms of digital photography and enhancements. Entries using digital enhancement must include a description of the techniques involved. The judges expect that the entries will include a discussion of the ethics of the enhancements or manipulations used in producing the entry and how they contribute to the science of rock art research.

The criteria and guidelines for the award follow:

The Oliver Award is to be given for excellence in the art and science of photography in the service of the study and appreciation of rock art. The art and science of rock art photography serves two critical masters:

On the one hand, rock art photography must illuminate and educate people that have not had the opportunity to see a site first hand. The art of rock art photography is in capturing the experience of the site, not just in reproducing what is painted or etched upon a wall of stone, but also in evoking a sense of place and the feelings and emotions that invariably one experiences at a rock art site.

Our other master is science. Rock art photography must meet the criteria for objectively evaluating and measuring the subject so that the judgments drawn from data obtained from photographs are valid and useful. We must acknowledge new, and often, controversial scientific work in the field of photography that may lead to another way of understanding rock art.

For the purposes of this award, it will include all conventional still or motion film mediums, scientific film mediums, video, and digital image captures done on location. It does not extend to multimedia "productions" although the scope of the award may be expanded in the future.

Entries may include a single image or a portfolio of images of a single site or cluster of sites. As with the Castleton Award, there are no application forms, but entries should be accompanied by a cover letter that explains how the entry meets the criteria of the award. In other words, how does it provide a viewer with new information or a new appreciation of the site or sites. This is particularly necessary in the case of scientific studies where the

techniques used may be unfamiliar to the judges. The letter should also summarize the applicant's previous work in rock art (a copy of a resume or curriculum vitae is acceptable).

A panel of judges will be selected by the ARARA Executive Board. Decision of the judges is final and only those entries accompanied by an appropriately stamped, self-addressed envelope will be returned.

To enter the competition, send one letter of application and the entry in time to be received by February 15 to:

[ARARA-Oliver Award](#)
[Janet Lever-Wood, Awards Committee Chair](#)
[608 Sunlit Lane](#)
[Santa Cruz, CA 95060](#)
[<blueglphy@jps.net>](mailto:blueglphy@jps.net)

Past recipients include:

- * **1996:** Rick Bury (Honorable Mentions: Mark Pahuta, Leon Yost)
- * **1997:** Clay Martin
- * **1998:** Alain Briot
- * **1999:** no award
- * **2000:** William L. Johnson
- * **2001:** no award
- * **2002:** Robert Mark and Evelyn Billo
- * **2003:** no award
- * **2004:** Reinaldo Morales Jr.
- * **2005:** Anne Carter
- * **2006:** Diane Orr
- * **2007:** no award
- * **2008:** Craig Lee