The 2008 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture competition culminated this past October with an awards presentation and exhibition of the winning students’ work at Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey. Sculptures by each of the 12 winners, nominated by faculty sponsors from schools around the world, were included in the show. The 2008 competition attracted over 400 applicants from schools across the United States and beyond, including students from Canada, Estonia, Korea, Israel, Australia, and Pakistan.

Johannah Hutchison, Executive Director of the ISC, introduced the winners to the crowd at the exhibition opening. She commended both the students’ hard work and the unfailing support of their faculty sponsors and educational institutions. Each winner received an award certificate presented by Chakaia Booker, renowned sculptor and ISC Board member, and Lauren Hallden-Abberton, Student Award Program Coordinator.

Two of the winners, Bernadette Birzer and Jordan Griska, have also been selected to participate in an international artist residency program in Switzerland, where they will study with distinguished sculptor Heinz Aeschlimann.

Founded in 1994, the ISC’s Student Awards program was created to support and recognize the work of young sculptors and to encourage their continued commitment to the field of sculpture. This year, the 12 winners and 9 honorable mention recipients were selected by jurors Mary Ceruti, Director of the SculptureCenter in Long Island City, New York; Dennis Oppenheim, an internationally acclaimed sculptor living in New York City; and Robert Roesch, Chair of Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Art in Philadelphia.

The Student Awards program provides an opportunity for emerging artists to gain visibility on a national and international level, as well as valuable competition and exhibition experience. For more information on the 2008 Student Awards winners or to learn about the 2009 competition, visit <www.sculpture.org>, e-mail <studentawards@sculpture.org>, or call 609.689.1051 x305.