

## **The Lee Toy Memorial Kite Artist of the Year Award**

Kite vagabond, author, artist and beloved kiter, Lee Toy filled the world with his creative energies, enormous talent, kindness, good humor and zest for life. Born in California and raised there and in Wisconsin, Lee worked in several artistic mediums and kite styles with an emphasis on fighter kites. Viewing kite flying as a metaphor for life, he promoted the joy of kiting around the world. His true gift was inspiring others to explore the wide world of kites and to see them as authentic art forms. Lee built kites as a kid, became an architect along the way and helped lead the kite scene at Marina Green in San Francisco in the 1970s. In the 1980s he relocated to his ultimate kite workshop/home in Scottsdale. His small book, *Flight Patterns*, gave wise insights with several excellent plans. Lee passed away in late 1992 and is still missed terribly by his family and many kite friends.

The American Kitefliers Association (AKA) establishes the “LEE TOY MEMORIAL KITE ARTIST AWARD”. The award will be presented at the annual convention of the AKA to a member selected as the “Kite Artist of the Year”. The recipient will receive a traveling award to be held by the recipient for one year and returned for the following convention. The award will be inscribed with the name of each past recipient. Each recipient will receive a plaque that will remain with them.

### **CRITERIA**

The Kite Artist of the Year recognizes an artist’s body of original work or their commitment to kites as art as well as their ability to inspire others in recognizing the uniqueness of kites as art. The Artist of the Year demonstrates a willingness to teach, explore and innovate in promoting kites within the AKA membership or the broader community. The recipient also shows a clear generosity of spirit and willingness to share his or her energies in promoting kites as an art form. The recipient must be a member of the AKA.

The AKA believes the above criteria best exemplifies the character of Lee Toy.

### **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The selection committee shall consist of seven members who shall all be AKA members:

1. Sunny Toy or another member of the Toy family
2. The two most recent past recipients of the Lee Toy Memorial award
3. The current and most recent past president of the AKA.
4. Two current members of AKA’s Kite Art Committee.

The committee will be chaired by the current president of the AKA.

No person may occupy more than one position or cast more than one vote on the committee. Substitutions will be made as follows:

1. If Sunny Toy or a member of the Toy family is unavailable, they may appoint a substitute for that year.
2. If the past president is unavailable, the next preceding past president will substitute.
3. If a past recipient is unavailable, ineligible or already occupying another seat on the committee, the next preceding past recipient will substitute.
4. The chair of the Kite Art Committee shall appoint the two committee members.
5. If a vacancy still exists, the AKA president shall appoint a knowledgeable substitute.

## NOMINATIONS

An invitation to nominate award recipients will be announced to the membership at large. A schedule for close of nominations and selection committee review will be designated by the committee chair to ensure timely selection and announcement at the annual convention.

Nominations will be accepted from AKA members and must be seconded and signed by at least two other AKA members. Members may submit or second only one nomination in any given year. Nominations shall be in writing and include specific examples of how the nominee's kite activities fit the criteria for the award.

## SELECTION

Each member of the selection committee shall independently rank the nominations by listing their preferences (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) and returning their ranking to the chairperson within the time deadline designated by the chair.

The chairperson shall total the place finish numbers of the nominees. The award recipient will be the person with the lowest number. The chairperson shall cast a tie-breaking vote if necessary.

It is not necessary that this award be conferred every year if, in the judgment of the committee, no person nominated meets the criteria for the award. The details and results of the voting will be shared with members of the committee as soon as those votes are tallied and prior to an inscription on the award. The committee members may not disclose the names of the selected award recipient nor details regarding the voting.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

At the appropriate time during the AKA convention awards banquet, the chairperson or designate shall announce the names of the nominees and the person selected.

Effective 2008:

The recipient will receive a traveling award to be held by the recipient for one year and returned for the following convention. The award will be inscribed with the name of each past recipient. Each recipient will receive a plaque that will remain with them.