

# DAILY NEWS

## Boro's artistic talents see the color of money

39 local creative spirits are each rewarded with a \$7K fellowship

BY DENISE ROMANO

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING in the Brooklyn air: This year, the New York Foundation for the Arts awarded 39 of its 117 fellowships to Brooklyn painters, photographers and playwrights. Each awardee received \$7,000.

"I give [the foundation] a lot of kudos," said James Sheehan, 41, a painter from Williamsburg who received an award. "I can now buy some time and concentrate on my work instead of looking for a job. But I do want to buy a chair so I have one object that I can say NYFA bought me."

Sheehan plans to concentrate on his paintings of landscapes — influenced by Kings County of course. "Brooklyn offers the rich vitality of an artist-based community," said Sheehan, who swims daily at the Metropolitan Pool in Williamsburg with other artists and writers. "I've been working in Brooklyn for 10 years.

It's a wonderful place and the artist community is great."

Dulce Pinzon, 31, a photographer also from Williamsburg, who won a NYFA fellowship for "The Real Story of the Superheroes," which deals with immigrants and their influence on Brooklyn.

"These people are so valuable to the economy of Brooklyn," said Pinzon. "I want people to see what a contribution they make to our society and how hard it would be for us to survive without them."

Her photos, shot in Brooklyn, are of Mexican immigrants at work — but dressed up as superheroes. There's a laundry assistant as Wonder Woman, a deliveryman as the Hulk and a car-service driver as Batman.

Pinzon will use her award to pay off bills and finance her projects. "I feel that this can be my big break," she said.



Painter James Sheehan is among the 39 Brooklyn artists honored by the New York Foundation for the Arts; he will use his grant to buy more time to paint mini-landscapes.



NYFA grant recipient Dulce Pinzon is a photographer whose project features Mexican immigrants working in Brooklyn dressed as comic-book superheroes.