Presented by The Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen THE STANLEY G. SELTZ STUDENT AWARDS PROGRAM in honor of Ruthanne Kramer Hartung, 1938–2009

## THE RUTHANNE HARTUNG TWO-DIMENSIONAL AWARD

In cloistered monasteries of medieval Europe, early scribes laboriously decorated manuscripts and made copies of the Bible by hand with Gothic letters, typified by breaks, or fractures, within the characters. This was the origin of what Pennsylvania Germans, settling in America between 1750 and 1850, would call "fraktur."

A highly regarded "fraktur" artist, Ruthanne introduced illuminated manuscripts to an appreciative commercial world. Recording births, baptisms, marriages and deaths in soft watercolors and charming pen-and-ink designs, Ruthanne's work is treasured and displayed worldwide.

After receiving a B.S. degree in Art Education from Kutztown University, Ruthanne taught in public schools, and studied Gothic Black Letter forms with Raphael Boguslav and Paul Shaw in NYC. Intensely curious about her craft, she traveled and studied in Germany for insight into the origin of her folk art.

During her many years of membership in the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen, Ruthanne held several Board positions including the prestigious Standards Chair. In 2008, she authored the book "Fraktur," one of a series of books published by Stackpole Books for the Heritage Crafts Today Series. She was selected as one of the top 200 traditional American craftsmen by Early American Life magazine.

Her work traveled in the "Craft and Community, Traditional Arts in Contemporary Society" exhibit sponsored by the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, PA, and the Museum of American Folk Art, NYC. She held numerous workshops and was frequently overheard urging her students to "Establish your own personal style!"



Above: A fraktur by Ruthanne. Below: Ruthanne in her studio.



