

Queen Anne artist wins international award

BUSINESS

Queen Anne resident Bill Ritchie and his team, creators of Halfwood Press, have been recognized with the renowned Silver A'Design Award, based on Como, Italy. Ritchie, profiled in the Feb. 6 issue of the News, and his wife, Lynda, shared the honor with Tom and Margie Kughler, Ron Myhre and Warren Ralls.

The award was given to 259 winners chosen from more than 4,500 entries worldwide.

In a prepared statement, Ritchie said, "With 20 years in university teaching, fine-art printmaking and 20 years in new art technologies, I led our team to design and prove marketable a line of beautiful, functional hand-printing presses apposite to fine art, craft and a patentable printmaking teaching method. As printmaking is the ancestor of technologies of communication, to add digital communication in our press design came naturally by fitting Subject Matter Expertise by a USB flash memory

drive, thereby creating the world's first 'smart art instrument' in this small, beautiful Halfwood printing press."

The Silver A-Design Award criteria are based on design, functionality, ergonomics, engineering, presentation, innovation, usability, fun details and technology.

The award-winning press will be included in the Museum of Outstanding Design in Como, Italy.



The model entered in the A'Design Award, showing the PressGhost feature: A flash memory drive that connects "how-to" instructions to a computer. Photo courtesy of Bill Ritchie.



Bill Ritchie holds his award behind two Halfwood presses he helped design and finish. Photo courtesy of Bill Ritchie.