The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society recognizes new talent in the art of bonsai and encourages talented bonsai enthusiasts to participate in the RMBS Annual Show. RMBS believes that the development of new bonsai artists should be recognized by their peers and that break through bonsai artistry or a significant change in the quality of work should be recognized. A chosen artist must be in good standing in RMBS and must exhibit skill and creativity in artistic bonsai creations, effective display and composition. The Emerging Artist(s) will be recognized at the RMBS Annual Show by the RMBS President and Artist of the Year selection committee. The determination of this award is completed as early as possible during the RMBS Annual Show and the recipient is recognized through the placement of an Award of Recognition by the committee at the Recipient's bonsai display during the Annual Show. This award is not mandatory or always awarded annually as there may be times where there is no appropriate candidate.

Original date probably 2012 from a newsletter announcing the Visions of the American West show in June 2012.