

SUU COLLEGE of PERFORMING
and VISUAL ARTS

BRAITHWAITE

FINE ARTS GALLERY

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**SUU'S FRIENDS OF THE BRAITHWAITE FINE ARTS GALLERY
TO HONOR OUTSTANDING FRIEND OF ART
AT ANNUAL AUCTION**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Two uniquely gifted women, whose devotion to visual art and education had a huge impact on our community, will be the focus of a new honor to be awarded at this year's Friends of the **Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery's 23rd Annual Art Auction**. Scheduled for Thursday, March 5 at Rusty's Ranch House, this event will see presentation of the newly named **LaRae King Friend of Art Award**. The Award will be posthumously bestowed upon **Maud Trismen Mason** and presented to her husband, Keith, at the 23rd Art Auction. The award has been named in honor of the late LaRae King, a former director of Southern Utah University's Braithwaite Fine Gallery. The recipient was not only a respected assemblage artist but a philanthropist who was one of the first individuals to make a significant gift to the Southern Utah Museum of Art.

The newly named **LaRae King Friend of Art Award** has been inspired by LaRae's commitment to the visual arts and education in southern Utah. During her tenure at SUU's Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery (1984-1987), LaRae curated a variety of remarkable exhibitions as well as encouraging the creativity of students of all ages through hands-on projects. She was committed to the arts throughout her life, always finding time to create art while being successful in her many other roles of business woman, student, curator, mother and grandmother. Each year a Southern Utah University art student receives financial support in achieving educational goals in the arts through the LaRae King Memorial Scholarship established by her daughters. LaRae continues to inspire many friends and family members to find their own creativity and give it expression from the example she set. This award presented by the Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery is given to an individual who follows LaRae's example by making a significant contribution to the visual arts in our region as either an artist, patron or educator.

Born in New York City, **Maud Trismen Mason** was introduced to the arts at a young age by her parents, Frederick D. Trismen and Gladys Cisney. Young Maud enjoyed playing piano and was a gifted student in her academic pursuits. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida in 1951 but continued her studies at Ohio's Oberlin College and Pennsylvania's Swarthmore College. Her growing interest in art led her to Maitland Art Research Studio in central Florida, where she cultivated her interest in assemblage; its avant-garde vitality fit her perfectly. During the 1960s, assemblage evolved and refined itself to generate more appeal for American art patrons, and Maud was among its pioneers. In 1964, an exhibition featuring 40 of her works was showcased in Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, which brought her acclaim. Subsequently 15 of the works were featured at the 1964 World's Fair in New York, winning her a gold medal. Over the years, Miss Maud's art has been exhibited regionally and internationally. Last year, her estate donated one of her intricate works to the Friends' 22th Annual Art Auction.

Beyond her art, Maud was also a benevolent and steadfast patron of the arts. When learning of SUU's proposed Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), she and her husband, Keith Mason, were among the first individuals to bestow a generous gift to the project. Their gift will be recognized in the museum with The Rocki Alice Gallery in memory of Frederick Trismen and The Maud Trismen Mason Collection and Conservation Studio.

Each year the Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery's Annual Art Auction features a wide spectrum of visual artwork including paintings, drawings, prints, photography, ceramics, jewelry and other unique pieces by some of the finest artists in the Southwest. This year we invite you to preview the art online at the Gallery's website at suu.edu/pva/artgallery (beginning February 20, 2015) or by attending **The Art Auction Preview Exhibition** at the Gallery, **February 20** through **March 4, 2015**. Proceeds go to the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA) and the fall 2015 exhibition, A-B-C: Assemblage, Book Art & Collage. Funds raised also go to benefit Friends' sponsored education and outreach activities for Iron County K-12 students.

The **Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery** is a non-profit group established in 1977. For over 30 years, the Friends of the Gallery have helped to enrich lives by sponsoring outstanding educational programming, art excursions, fundraising, and world-class exhibits.

Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA) will be an experiential learning center for future arts leaders who serve the community through exhibitions, collections, preservation, and educational programming. SUMA will become the first nationally accredited art museum operated by graduate and undergraduate students in a shared research, learning and applied environment mentored by the faculty, administration and staff

of Southern Utah University. SUMA will be part of SUU's forthcoming Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts, expected to be completed in summer 2016.

For more information about joining the Friends or its upcoming 23rd Annual Art Auction on Thursday March 5, 2015, please contact the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery at artgallery@suu.edu or call 435-586-5432. Tickets are \$50 per person which includes dinner. The event is held at Cedar City's Rusty's Ranch House and begins at 5:30pm. Tickets and Friends' memberships can be purchased online at www.suu.edu/artgallery through the Store link.