

SUU COLLEGE of PERFORMING
and VISUAL ARTS

BRAITHWAITE

FINE ARTS GALLERY

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The Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery 23rd Annual Art Auction a Record-Breaking Success

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: A heart-pounding live auction, a highly competitive silent auction and remarkable camaraderie led to a record-breaking fundraiser. The Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery's 23rd Annual Art Auction successfully brought together art devotees, artists and members of the community to raise money for the Friends' sponsored fall exhibition, education programs and more.

Held on Thursday, March 5th at a sold out Rusty's Ranch House, attendees helped the Friends raise more than \$35,000 for the sponsorship of their fall 2015 exhibition: *ABC: Assemblage, Book Art & Collage*, curated by Deborah K. Snider, SUU Assistant Professor of Art, acclaimed collage artist Jonathan Talbot and book art and assemblage artist Sue Cotter. Monies raised also go to Friends' sponsored education and outreach programs as well as support for programming at the forthcoming Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA).

Emceed with great charm and warmth by Michael Bahr, Education Director at Utah Shakespeare Festival, the event was full of surprises. A highlight of the pre-auction program was the presentation of the first LaRae King Friend of Art by Rachelle Bonnett, Arts Administration MFA graduate student. This new honor was posthumously bestowed upon the late Maud Trismen Mason, artist and philanthropist, and was accepted by her husband Keith Mason.

The live auction was helmed by popular auctioneer Joe Taylor, who returned to the Art Auction after a three-year absence. During the live auction, there were several standout moments including bidding battles over works created by Diane Adams, Arlene Braithwaite, Spike Ress and Kate Starling.

In addition to the live auction, many people walked away happy from the silent auction which featured 25

items and an opportunity-to-win package featuring a giclee print of a Jim Jones painting accompanied by a catalog signed by the late artist.

Friends co-chair Diane Strachan was overwhelmed by the evening's success. "This year's auction raised the most money in the event's 23-year history. What a remarkable achievement. Speaking on behalf of the Friends, we are deeply grateful to all the artists who donated such spectacular art to event – without their support we would not be able to continue our efforts of bringing art to the community. In addition, I must praise Kathy LaFave of LaFave Gallery in Springdale and Steve Yates of Artisan's Art Gallery in Cedar City for their support. I want to thank the Friends' board for all their work. We are aware that the auction would not happen without the organization, hard work, and coordination of the graduate students in SUU's MFA Arts Administration program and the back bone of some hard-working SUU undergraduate art students."

The Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery is a non-profit group established in 1977, just one year after the Gallery was opened on the Southern Utah University campus. For nearly 35 years the *Friends* have helped enrich lives through their sponsorship of world-class exhibitions and outstanding arts education programs. Each year *Friends'*-supported exhibitions attract legions of art lovers from throughout the intermountain west. *In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits* exhibition saw a record number of attendees from throughout the region. Other *Friends'* supported exhibitions seen in recent years at the Braithwaite supported by the *Friends* include *Francisco Goya: Los Caprichos*, *Chihuly Baskets*, *Soviet Era Art: 1917-1991*, *Everything in Between: Art Quilts, Fabric Collage and Embroidery*, *Jim Jones: The San Blas Years* and the recent *50 from 6: Contemporary Ceramics from the Six Rocky Mountain States*. All of these exhibitions were free to the general public.

The Friends of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery look forward to celebrating our donating artists in the annual *Southern Utah Art Invitational* in June and bringing *ABC: Assemblage, Book Art & Collage* to the Gallery in September.

Support art in southern Utah by becoming a Friend of the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery. There are various donor levels with special benefits. If you are interested, visit <http://www.suu.edu/pva/artgallery/friends> or call (435) 586-5432.

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The **Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts** is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine

Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean at (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.