

The Art of Giving

THE ARTS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA ARE FLOURISHING, THANKS TO ARTISTS AND BENEFACTORS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOCAL ART SCENE.

BY SANDRA CARR

Arts and culture in our community is thriving due to local artists, leaders and nonprofit organizations that donate their time and monies toward art, music, dance, science and drama. Supporting the arts also provides creative opportunities for children of all ages. Studies have shown that students engaged in the arts do better academically. United Arts of Central Florida ensures that Orange and Seminole County pupils have a chance to experience the arts during the school year.

"The donors are people who are civic leaders and get what this community can be," explains UA President & CEO Margot H. Knight. "They get a warm and fuzzy feeling from knowing that they're contributing to a great quality of life. The donations don't get people's names in the lights, but instead it keeps the lights on."

University of Central Florida professor emeritus of music Dr. Mary Palmer has been making a difference and giving back to the arts through her organization, Mary Palmer & Associates, LLC, which offers Connect with Music and Through the Arts programs and Arts for a Complete Education/Florida Alliance for Arts Education. Both groups focus on providing children with an art foundation.

"I believe that the arts can transform schools and communities by engaging students in learning, with the emphasis of a high-quality arts education program that includes an arts integration aspect in the general curriculum," says Palmer.

Design Studio Orlando owner and artist Audrey Phillips has donated her artwork, mentored art students and has educated the community through the



JONATHAN LASKER (LEFT), Acquisition Trust President Nancy Wolf and Member Bob Mandell at the presentation of Lasker's *A Portrait of the Artist's Mother* to the Orlando Museum of Art. This purchase represents the 40th piece that the Acquisition Trust has contributed to OMA during its almost 25 years as one of the museum's collecting groups.

assistance of her visual arts for the past six years. In October 2007, Phillips showcased her artwork in an exhibit titled *Safe Spaces* at the Gallery on First in Sanford. This provided the public with a perception of an artist's mind and

Phillips feels getting her art message across is important. "I consider myself an arts evangelist that's always spreading the word about how art is a vital part of the equation for a healthy community. I see art as an indispensable piece of the

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— Margot H. Knight, President & CEO of United Arts

how emotions are unveiled and transformed into art. The display also provided the attendees with a chance to interact with her art and to express themselves by composing thoughts and reactions on a wall.

economic and cultural health of our community, just as the bumble bee is a critical ingredient in the ecological equation. Without it, we don't thrive."

Central Florida arts advocate and local land-use attorney Hal H. Kantor has

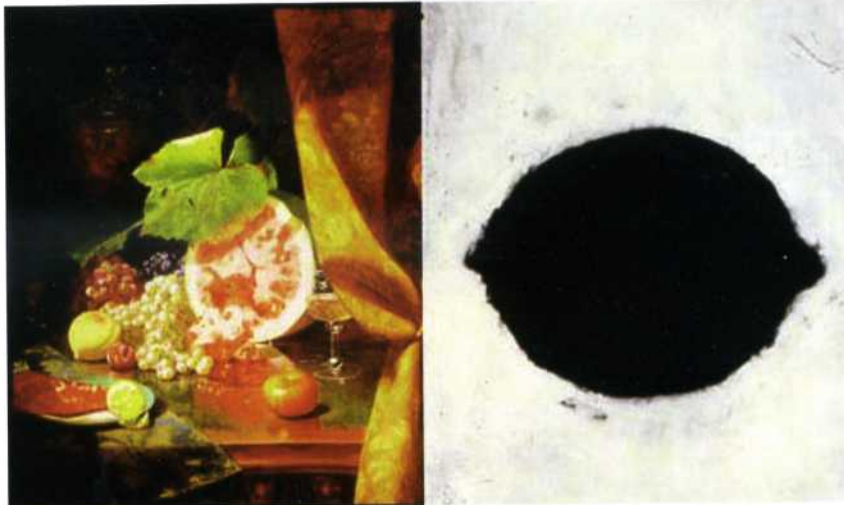
served on the board of trustees for both the Orlando Museum of Art and United Arts of Central Florida.

His involvement with the Orlando Museum of Art provided him with the opportunity to coordinate with his law firm, Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., to purchase a Dale Chihuly glass sculpture from the museum's Chihuly exhibit four years ago. The piece is on loan and allows visitors an opportunity to enjoy the glass structure for years to come. He feels that art serves a purpose.

"I think today we're all tied up with the Internet, video games and movies and sometimes forget art," he says. "People can appreciate art in ways they can't appreciate other things. It's esoteric and individual. If you don't have art, then part of the human spirit is missing." **oam**

Sandra Carr, formerly associate editor of Create Magazine and associate producer of Orlando CityBeat.com, freelances for publications that include Atomic Ranch magazine, Destination Hyatt, the Orlando Sentinel, Scooter World magazine, Time Out Chicago, Venus Zine and Zagat Survey.

ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART



Provocative Pairings

Sept. 20, 2008–Nov. 2, 2008

Drawn from OMA's permanent collections, pairings in this exhibition place art produced in different time periods, in different media, and from different points of view, side by side. The exhibition will stimulate new thinking and may transform your point of view.

Hours: Tues.–Fri. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Sat. & Sun. noon–4 p.m. 1st Thursday of the month, 6–9 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Free Thursdays from 1–4 p.m. for local residents (Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole). William Merritt Chase, *Autumn Fruit*, 1871, oil on canvas, 30 x 25 in., on long-term loan from the Martin Andersen-Gracia Andersen Foundation, Inc. Donald Sultan, *Black Lemon*, Nov. 28, 1984, 1984, aquatint on paper; edition 1/10, 82 x 48 in., gift of Council of 101. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Orlando Museum of Art is supported by earned income, the Council of 101, donations from individuals, corporations and foundations, and sponsored in part by United Arts of Central Florida with funds from the United Arts campaign, State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Organized by Child's Gallery, Boston



Donald De Lue, *Cosmic Head*, 1943, gilded bronze

A Treasury of American Prints

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Peter Hurd, *The Shepherds' Christmas*, n.d., etching

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\$3.95

The Official Publication of

United Arts

OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Non-Profit Holder
2450 Maitland Center Parkway, Suite 201
Maitland, FL 32751-4140