



Friday, December 30, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Treasures: Arizona Artists 70 years or better January 13 - March 31

Deserving artists in Japan are given the title of "National Treasure". West Valley Art Museum is giving a similar designation to this group as a way of recognizing the contributions of a number of artists living and working in Arizona who are 70 years of age and beyond.

One of the most recognized and enduring names is that of the McCalls. Bob and Louise have devoted their lives to their art, though their two styles are widely divergent. Bob McCall has documented the Nation's space program for more than thirty-five years. NASA's provision of this 'front row seat' has allowed him to personally witness mankind's progress and turn it into the magnificent renderings that link us together as residents of Planet Earth. In addition to being America's visual space historian, McCall has also sparked our collective imagination with regard to what may become our future history. Serving as conceptual artist for the entertainment industry, he worked on films such as Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, and Disney's *The Black Hole*.

Louise McCall is known nationally and internationally for her bold and vibrant still life paintings. Prior to moving to Arizona in the early 1970's, Louise McCall's work could be seen primarily on the east coast, where she was an annual exhibitor in the juried "Artists of Northern Westchester Show". Her work earned her first prize under such discriminating judges as famed sculptor, Jacques Lipchitz, and Perry Rathbone, curator of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Other exhibits included a show in New York City at the Union Carbide Gallery. Her artwork is included in many private collections in the United States, Saudi Arabia and England and has also been featured in *Arizona Highways* magazine.

For twenty-five years Rudy Turk was Curator/Director of the Arizona State University Art Museum. Indeed, he was a major force in the growth of that museum from a few galleries in the Matthews Center to the erection of the present Antoine Predock-design edifice, one of the state's landmark buildings. He acquired thousands of art works for the museum, especially in the field of fine prints, folk art and, above all, ceramics. During his ASU tenure, Mr. Turk gave innumerable lectures in humanities and fine arts to groups throughout the state. The humanities he co-authored appeared in nine editions and was used throughout the country. His critical studies of Arizona artists have won accolades and some are cherished collector items. Mr. Turk has been painting for over 40 years, but never as intensely and satisfactorily as during the years since his retirement in 1992. He does not plan to ever retire from his painting career.

Joella Jean Mahoney is an Arizona artist sought after for her live painting and drawing demonstrations, her art lectures and slide presentation, *The Development of Motif*. Mahoney

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demonstrates the use of oil pastels and oil paints in creating her dramatic, colorful, spirit filled depictions of Southwestern landscape. She is at ease standing in front of her easel making art and offering clear explanations of what she is intending. She is Professor of Art Emerita, University of La Verne, La Verne, California. She taught painting and drawing LIVE on television at NAU.

As a young artist, Joella first came to Arizona 50 years ago. She was born in Chicago Illinois, moved West and, after graduating from Alameda High School (Bay Area, California) was recruited as an art student by the, then, little Arizona State Teachers College, Flagstaff, Arizona.

"In 1951 when I stepped off the train in Flagstaff and saw for the first time the Colorado Plateau landscape, I knew that this place was home. I saw a landscape that matched how I felt inside. The vast, unfolding vistas implied endless life possibilities." Her depictions of the Arizona landscape can be considered to be the definitive and quintessential renderings of what is Arizona.

Other artists in this exhibition include: Adele Seronde; Adele Seronde, painter and poet, has the rare ability to see and portray nature whole. Her painterly landscapes capture two diverse yet awe-inspiring locations, the hot intensely-colored canyons of Arizona and the hard, cool, wet Maine coast. The interplay on her canvases is between her love of juicy paint for paint's sake and her empathy with the essential character of the places where she plants her easel. Painting without details, but with precision of color and tone, Adele catches the essence of the weather, the time and the season of that place in what appears to be a single spontaneous act.

Helen M. Shackelford; Helen is an accomplished artist, painting the skies of Arizona in a manner that is unparalleled in their beauty. Clouds, storms and heavy weather reach out to grab you as you gaze at her paintings. This Arizona native evidences her love of our state with each stroke of her brush.

Jules Heller; Artist and writer, Mr. Heller composed the "bible" in his field: Printmaking Today, authored a book titled Papermaking, wrote many articles for various magazines, including Artist's Proof and Impression, of which he was Executive Editor – and has co-edited with his daughter A Biographical Dictionary: North American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century which includes artists from Canada, the United States and Mexico. He also wrote the catalogue for and co-curated the exhibition Codex Mendéz: Prints by Leopoldo Mendéz, (1902 – 1969), which recently closed at the Nelson Fine Arts Gallery at ASU. His full biography is noted in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Art, etc.

Millie Chapin; Chapin is an art therapist as well as a working artist. She was Adjunct Assistant 1989-94 Professor in Art therapy, Art Institute of Chicago; from 1969-94 taught in colleges and universities throughout the US, lecturing, writing and having a clinical practice. In 1994 she published a book of her paintings, prints and poetry entitled *Reverberations: Mothers and Daughters*. Some of her subsequent poetry has been published in various newsletters and journals.

Robert Mayer; Mayer is a "landscape" photographer who constructs a larger vista through intimate details. Lines and patterns, that occur in nature or the built environment, are the vocabulary he uses to provide the substance of his own vision. He has won numerous awards in juried exhibitions throughout the western states from Nebraska to Texas. Mayer's work has been featured in exhibitions at Shemer Art Center in Phoenix as well as several locations in Cleveland, Ohio.

William Muller; William Muller-Lux has been described by critics as "that rare phenomenon, a living

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Old master." Not only did he study extensively the techniques of the Old Masters during his student years in Paris, but in his work one finds the richness of another age. The variety of subject matter that inspires him is almost overwhelming. The walls of his studio are lined with landscapes from Austria, Spain, and Switzerland, paintings of the land and the people of the American southwest, of fishermen rigging up their boats on Lake Chapala, of children at play, and of masterly executed line and brush drawings of the female nude.

Pat Berger; Artist and educator, Pat Berger has been active as a past president of National Watercolor Society, member of Watercolor USA Honor Society (former board member). She served as Vice Pres of LA Artcore and as board member, and is on the Fine Arts Council of University of Judaism. She taught art through Los Angeles Unified School District for 33 years in the adult division. Her exhibitions have been worldwide and include over 60 solo exhibits in the U.S. and Sweden plus over 150 group and invitational exhibits. In November, 2005, she is in her 2nd International Exchange Exhibit at the Kitakyushu Municipal Museum, in Kitakyushu, Japan.

Rose Bey; is a juried member of the Arizona Artists Guild, juried member of American Academy of Women Artists and studied in London with portrait artist Peter Samuelson. One of her paintings is in the collection of West Valley Art Museum. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Rose traveled extensively during her career living at times in Tehran, Iran ,London and Paris, France.

Ruth Stoloff; Ruth Stoloff was a textile stylist and designer for 25 years. In 1937, Ms. Stoloff went to New York and was hired by R.H. Macy to design home furnishings for their manufacturers. For those 25 years she was textile stylist for many prestigious firms and was president of the home Furnishings Color Council which coordinated paint, fabric, wallpaper, etc. and annual color choices. She also taught art and humanities for 12 years at Wheatley School (Roslyn, L.I.) and was Art Chairman at Rockville Center, L.I. High School. Following her second retirement, Ms. Stoloff really started to paint: watercolors, acrylic, oil and paste. She had classes for budding older artists and exhibited and sold and won many awards. She and her family moved to Heritage Village, Connecticut, where she painted, taught, exhibited and sold her work. Ruth moved to her last retirement home in Sun City, Arizona, and for 10 years served as a docent for West Valley Art Museum. Her artistic efforts in these later years included forays into sculpture and ceramics.

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**“Slide Rock” oil by
Joella Jean Mahoney**



Joella Jean Mahoney



Robert McCall



Louise McCall



**“Of Lavender and Leaves”
Acrylic by Pat Berger**



Pat Berger

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