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**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOUISVILLE AND LOUISVILLE VISUAL ART ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCE WINNER OF MARY ALICE HADLEY PRIZE FOR VISUAL ART**

\$5,000 prize to be awarded to one local artist

LOUISVILLE, KY – Tracy Pennington, a local mosaic artist, will receive the Mary Alice Hadley Prize for Visual Art on Wednesday, June 4th at 11:00 a.m. during a special event at PUBLIC, the gallery of the Louisville Visual Art Association (131 W. Main St.), according to the Community Foundation of Louisville. The \$5,000 award will allow Pennington to participate in a personal enrichment experience that will help her achieve her full artistic potential.

Event speakers will include Robert Hallenberg, Board President of LVAA; Mimi Zinniel, Chair of the Board of the Community Foundation of Louisville; and winner Tracy Pennington.

The M.A. Hadley Prize Selection Committee, comprising a diverse panel of arts professionals from Louisville and outside the local area, was impressed with the volume and quality of the artists presented in the 2nd Annual Hadley Prize competition. Sixty-five applications were reviewed, and Tracy Pennington's best assimilated the vision, experience and aptitude germane to the criteria for the Prize set forth by the Community Foundation of Louisville.

"The proceeds from the Hadley Prize will have significant impact on Tracy's future as an artist, and we were moved by the impact we feel it will have on Tracy, her career, her students and the artistic community of Louisville," according to the M.A. Hadley Prize Selection Committee.

Pennington plans to use the \$5,000 Hadley Prize to study with a mosaic master in a 5-day student intensive workshop at one of the premier mosaic schools in the world: The Mosaic School in Ravenna, Italy. "As a self-taught artist, the technical skills learned and the inspiration experienced would be invaluable," said Pennington,

who has a studio at Mellwood Arts & Entertainment Center where she teaches, creates and displays her art for sale.

While always artistic in nature, Pennington's journey into mosaic art started as a form of therapy in her lifelong struggles with severe depression. She said, "My therapist urged me to create something, anything." A mother of six children, she picked up a beginning mosaic art kit from the craft store and didn't expect to experience anything significant. "Instead, to my surprise, I found the tactile, slow process of mosaic-making to be psychologically healing. I fell in love with making mosaics and became a believer in the healing power of art."

"It's so wonderful to see the lasting impact that Mary Alice Hadley continues to have on the arts community and artists like Tracy, thanks to the George and Mary Alice Hadley endowment fund at the Community Foundation of Louisville," said Susan A. Barry, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Louisville. "What better way to honor her artistic legacy than to help future generations of local artists reach their full potential."

"The Hadley Prize is a catalyst for professional artistic achievement, which in turn, enriches our community of art makers and the public," said Shannon Westerman, Executive Director of Louisville Visual Art Association. "This year's winner is utilizing the proceeds from the Hadley Prize to study with the masters of mosaic art in Italy. Tracy will return home and not only apply newly learned skills to her personal work, but also share her experience and knowledge with fellow artists, at-risk youth, students and others. In the future, and as a result of winning this fellowship award, I would not be surprised if Tracy Pennington created a mosaic public art project for all in Louisville to enjoy."

Applicants were all members of the Louisville Visual Art Association living in the Louisville Metro area and working in the following media: ceramics, graphic design, drawing, crafts, painting, photography, sculpture, video and/or film, printmaking and installation.

The \$5,000 M.A. Hadley Prize is awarded from the George and Mary Alice Hadley Fund at the Community Foundation of Louisville. The endowment was established in 1991, and it supports the arts and humanities, particularly visual arts, crafts, theater and the Louisville Free Public Library. Marie Alice Hadley established one of Louisville's most iconic and well-known potteries, and was renowned for her unique paintings as well as clay ware. The award is a partnership between the Community Foundation of Louisville and the Louisville Visual Art Association, which managed the application process.

For more information about the event, please contact Cara Baribeau at the Community Foundation of Louisville at 502-855-6943 or carab@cflouisville.org.

Mary Alice Hadley (1911-1965) was born into a family of clay tile makers. She exhibited an early interest in art and design and became a widely-recognized painter, winning numerous awards and acclaim from New York to Los Angeles.

In the late 1930s, Mary Alice began melding her artistic talent with her knowledge of clay ware. She made a set of dishes for her houseboat in 1939 and created such a stir among her friends and acquaintances that the idea for a business was born. With the help of her husband George, the Hadley Pottery Co. was formed in 1940.

Many of Mary Alice's original art pieces are on display in the Hadley Pottery factory in the Butchertown neighborhood of Louisville, including several wall murals all hand-painted by Mary Alice herself. The business prospered, attracting collectors from across the nation and around the world.

The Community Foundation of Louisville, founded in 1984, is the largest community foundation in Kentucky, with \$413 million in assets and more than 1,300 charitable funds. Each fund has its own name and charitable purpose as defined by its donors. In 2013, these funds awarded more than 7,000 grants totaling \$40 million to nonprofit organizations in the Louisville area and beyond. Over the past 30 years, the Community Foundation of Louisville has made more than \$625 million in grants to nonprofit organizations in Louisville and beyond. For more information, visit www.cfloosville.org.

The Louisville Visual Art Association is a catalyst for education and participation in the visual arts. LVAA engages artists and audiences through an energetic agenda of education, community outreach, artist support and exhibitions. These programs nurture creative expression and stimulate dialogue, thereby enriching contemporary culture and community spirit. For more information visit www.louisvillevisualart.org.

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