

Bringing Art to Life

THE
art
CONNECTION

No. 34, Spring/Summer 2015

Celebrating our Founders in our Twentieth Year

THE ART CONNECTION IS 20 YEARS OLD!

We kicked the year off by starting The Fay Chandler Giving Circle, hosting a community brainstorming session on how best to celebrate, and making plans to mark the year with appropriate gusto. Our Founders' Event was scheduled for February and got snowed under and rescheduled for March. Then we lost Fay. In April we finally gathered to celebrate our milestone and to honor the life and work of our extraordinary friend and founder, Fay Martin Chandler. We will use this space to allow our founders to speak for us. The following are anecdotes they shared at the Founders' Event:

“THE VISION OF PROFOUND DEMOCRACY around art and the importance of getting wonderful things into people’s lives was really important and remains so to this day.”

– Mary Lassen, *past board member*

“WHEN FAY HAD A PROBLEM TO SOLVE, very often the solution happened to be a community solution.”

– Ruth Ginsburg-Place,
art donor and past board member

“I COULD NOT BELIEVE when I met Fay for the first time, the second time, and the 40,000th time, what a wonderful woman she is! The Art Connection is a powerful organization, and a force for good.”

– Ellen Rich, *art donor,
program committee member,
and signed by-laws in 1995*

“FAY HAD SUCH A SPARK. I knew whatever ideas were tossed in or out at those first meetings, she would make them happen. Boy, did she!”

– Nancy Simonds,
*art donor, past board member,
and signed by-laws in 1995*

“THE ART CONNECTION has been amazing at creating environments that are beautiful and respectful for the people who have had such a tough time.”

– Mark Hinderlie, *CEO at Hearth,
art recipient at six facilities providing permanent
supportive housing for formerly homeless seniors*



Music at the Founders' Event provided by MusiConnects players

continued on back...

THE MASTHEAD features “Waterfront Property” by John Borchard. This photograph, a gift from the artist, was selected by MassBay Community College. Their mission is to foster educational excellence and student success, prepare students for local and global citizenship, anticipate and respond to the needs of surrounding communities, and contribute to evolving regional economic development.

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The Art Connection is a nonprofit organization that expands public access to visual art by placing the work of donor artists and collectors on the walls of community service organizations. Since its inception in 1995, this unique gifting program has supported over 375 agencies in their personal selection of over 6,800 pieces by more than 400 artists and collectors. Within these healing environments, the original works of art provide welcome opportunities for reflection, inspiration, comfort, and hope. Copyright © 2015 by The Art Connection, Inc. We welcome your contributions and comments.

This program is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Boston Cultural Council, and several generous foundations and individuals.



“Poof! My Work Here is Done”



FAY CHANDLER left us on March 3, 2015, and this is a loving tribute to her. Her legacy lives on at The Art Connection, an enduring inspiration to all who love art and believe that everybody deserves access to experiencing art in their daily lives.

For the past few years, Fay stepped back to let The Art Connection forge its own future. And now, while Fay’s work here may be done, our job is to continue making The Art Connection sustainable in her absence.



Volunteer Jackie McRath with honorary chair Julie Burros, City of Boston’s Chief of Arts and Culture, and Susan Collings at Art BINGO



MC and decorations guru Mary Coogan, Art BINGO Co-Chairs Susan Bradley and Michael Rousseau, and foodie extraordinaire Michael Bacon

This means increased attention to financial support, continually refining our vision for programming in the community, and bringing new energy and vitality to our Board.

The Art Connection’s 20th year began with the Founders’ Celebration, where early supporters who worked with Fay to create this wonderful organization received awards. We just completed our 4th annual Art BINGO. Guests loved visiting our “Fay corner” at the silent auction, complete with an original Clara Wainwright fabric piece in Fay’s image, a watercolor of Fay by actor John Lithgow, and Fay’s season tickets for Handel and Haydn Society, donated by her family. Now that summer is near, we are excited to plan an evening with our art donors at the 10th annual Artist Recognition BBQ.

Moving forward, you will be invited to additional celebrations recognizing the milestone that is our 20th anniversary. In September, Fay’s family will present a multi-day celebration of philanthropy and art. Details will emerge on www.faychandler.com. Organizations who benefitted from her philanthropy – from visual arts to music to theater – will come together to provide free opportunities for people in Greater Boston to enjoy. Brilliant!

Last but not least, The Art Connection will soon say goodbye to our program manager of more than four years, Sarah Berry, who contributed much to advancing our mission as she worked with art donors, recipient agencies, and expansion sites. Thank you to Sarah for all she accomplished and best wishes for her future artful endeavors.

Susan Collings
Executive Director

Special Thoughts about Fay

FAY CHANDLER was an artist in motion. She lived her life in multiple layers of art, family and friendships, which, as well as spiritual and social imperatives, often combined in unpredictable ways.

Twenty years ago this combining led to The Art Connection, a practical, post solo exhibition solution to make room in her studio for future work. Reaching out to friends on non-profit boards, she offered to gift her unsold original artwork to their agencies. Other artists became interested in this solution, and a community effort was born to make “living with art” a possibility for a generally excluded, vital population.

Grace Hartigan, Fay’s teacher and friend, noted that her “paintings are deceptively simple and clear. On further examination they become increasingly complex.” The same could be said of Fay’s life.

A self-described “misfit,” Fay’s early fascination with negative space and the human figure put her outside her contemporaries in the mainstream of Abstract Expressionism. Fortunately her “stubbornness” prevailed, allowing her to make visible the way her mind’s eye saw people interacting with other people. In her paintings and objects she was able to express her own relationships with others, her reactions, her thoughts and her decisions and yes, her humor.

Praying, working, caring about, and connecting to others, Fay wove for herself a spiritual fabric that sustained the many layers of her life. She was a woman greatly loved and capable of great loving.

She was my friend.

Mary Coogan
Board of Directors

I MET FAY some 20 years ago when we were both living at 1010 Memorial Drive. One morning as I was driving to work, I saw Fay walking down Mt Auburn St. I stopped to ask if she would like a ride. As she got into the car, I asked her where she was going, and she said, “where ever you are going!” That was Fay as she turned 70, ready for new adventures.

Fay had enormous energy. Even as she was starting The Art Connection, she continued to make a lot of art. Soon she filled the Cyclorama with a show of her wonderful work. It was remarkable to see her large paintings truly filling that cavernous space!

I think of Fay often now, for her friendship, generosity, her art, and The Art Connection. In view of her accomplishments over the past 20 years, it’s clear that Fay at 70 was just coming into her own. As I have recently passed that milestone myself, I am inspired and also a little awed by this most remarkable woman.

Liz Coxe
Former Executive Director

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Recent Art Selections . . .



Nan Tull, *Sonar*, encaustic on canvas on wood panel, selected by Homeowner’s Rehab, Inc. (Auburn Court) in Cambridge. HRI develops affordable housing in Cambridge, providing safe, affordable, decent, and sustainable housing.



Susan Schwalb, *Cosmic Rising #2*, metallic leaf, mica powder, acrylic on canvas, selected by Geneva Avenue Elderly Housing in Dorchester. The management offers access to community services, activities, and information. The 45 residents will welcome the addition of original works of art as part of their daily lives.

Jason Pechinski, *Middle East*, oil on panel, placed at Massasoit Community College in Brockton. MCC is dedicated to the educational and civic improvement of their students.



See what's new at:

www.theartconnection.org



Karen A. V. O'Brien,
Purple Pears, acrylic,
placed at Project
Citizenship in Boston

Bringing Art to Life

Work by New Art Donors!



Richard Leo Jacobs, *In Praise of Garden Shadows #1*, photography,
placed at Bay Cove (Safety Net Outreach) in Boston



Maria Morabito, *Rhapsody*, oil
on burlap, placed at Whittier
Street Health Center in Roxbury



Nicole Agee-Oflus,
Radiant, acrylic on canvas
paper, placed at The Center
for Teen Empowerment, Inc.
in Dorchester

...cover story continued

“IT WAS A GIFT FOR ME just to be in her presence. She told us she became an artist to learn how to pray, and I said ‘Wow! I’m going to sit and watch her.’ I’m in recovery, so I started doing a series with found objects about recovery.”

– Florence, a client at Rosie’s Place



MusiConnects players,
Susan Collings, Ildiko Szabo,
and Mercedes Evans

“THIS IS ABOUT CONNECTIONS and people who feel that access to art is very important.... We want you to consider ways to continue Fay’s legacy. We’re looking

for your time, your talent, and your treasure. Invite people to come and join us. Let’s continue this mission into the future.”

– Mercedes Evans,
current board member

As at the event, we toast Fay and the founders, The Art Connection’s 20th year, and our future.

Cheers!
Sarah Berry
Program Manager