



Visual Artist and Educator Louise Freshman Brown Honored by The Community Foundation

UNF Professor selected as the 2019 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award Recipient

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – January 30, 2019 — For nearly forty years, Louise Freshman Brown has taught aspiring artists at the University of North Florida while successfully growing her own career to national and international acclaim. The caliber of Freshman Brown’s work and her devotion to students were decisive factors in her selection as the fourth Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award winner. The award, which includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant, recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida, and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation’s Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and Greenscape, among others.

The award was presented by members of the Baker Family at a private reception last night.

A painter and mixed media artist, Louise Freshman Brown’s work is in more than 600 private, public and corporate collections, and has been featured in museums and galleries in the United States and Europe. Solo exhibitions include Piirto Gallery, Helsinki, Finland; Everson Museum, Syracuse, NY; The Jacksonville Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL; The Deland Museum of Art, DeLand, FL; Monique Goldstrom Gallery, NYC; and City Center Theatre, NYC. Her work has also been included in distinguished group exhibitions including Galleria Retro & Arte, Venice, Italy; Advice Konsthall, Sollentuna, Sweden; Jane Haslem Gallery, Washington, DC; Women’s Art Cooperative, Van Nuys, CA; The William Whipple Art Gallery, Marshall, MN; New York Academy of Art, NYC; Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL; The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville, FL; Barbara Gillman Gallery, Miami, FL; Park Plaza Castle, Boston, MA; and Childs Gallery, NYC. Louise Freshman Brown was recognized by her UNF peers with the Outstanding Scholarship Award in 2005 for her impressive exhibition history.

She continues as an active and productive artist and her work was recently featured in the book *A Box of Dreams*, a collection of short stories by author Denis Bell, published by Adelaide Books, New York/Lisbon, 2018.

Since joining the faculty of the University of North Florida in 1981, Louise Freshman Brown has taught thousands of students on campus, abroad, and in workshops, and she has worked tirelessly to raise scholarship funds so talented students could study abroad. She taught the Senior Portfolio Review (the capstone course for all UNF fine arts majors) for many years and received the UNF Distinguished Professor Award in 2007, the university’s highest honor. Freshman Brown serves on the advisory board of Art with a Heart and supervises UNF student internships in this program. In addition to teaching and exhibiting, she is active in judging and jurying exhibitions. She served as a judge for the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards held in NY earlier this year.

“While her artistic accomplishments are immediately apparent, Louise Freshman Brown’s impact on generations of students as a teacher and mentor is equally profound,” noted Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. “Ann Baker’s passion for the arts was similarly enriched by nurturing budding artists, and we are so pleased to that Louise Freshman Brown’s career has been recognized as a part of Ann’s legacy in this area.”



The selection process for the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award includes a knowledgeable, anonymous panel of advisors who put forward a short list of finalists after considering a wide range of deserving artists in all disciplines throughout the year. A Selection Committee (a member of the Baker family, a Trustee of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, a representative from the advisory panel and The Community Foundation president) reviews the finalists and names the winner. Past winners include Terrance Patterson, David Engdahl and Jim Draper.

Art Ventures

For more than a quarter of a century, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has invested in the local cultural community as part of an exceptional initiative known as Art Ventures. In 1989, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) chose Jacksonville to receive \$50,000/year for four years, provided that The Community Foundation and (at the time) The Arts Assembly work together to raise \$100,000/year in unrestricted gifts over the same period. The challenge was a success, and the first grants were made in 1990. Art Ventures provides support for the more fragile part of the arts community—emerging individual artists and small arts organizations—and it has provided more than \$1 million in grants to individuals and small arts organizations since its inception. In 2015, The Community Foundation created the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award to honor the late Ann Baker, who led the initial Art Ventures fundraising with Courtenay Wilson, and who chaired The Community Foundation Board of Trustees from 2002-2003.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 55th year, the Foundation has assets of approximately \$398 million and has made nearly \$450 million in grants since 1964.

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