



Brooklyn  
Arts  
Council

55 Washington Street, Suite 218  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

TEL 718.625.0080  
FAX 718.625.3294

[bac@brooklynartscouncil.org](mailto:bac@brooklynartscouncil.org)  
[www.brooklynartscouncil.org](http://www.brooklynartscouncil.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Press Contact:** Sara DeRose, 718.625.0080, [sderose@brooklynartscouncil.org](mailto:sderose@brooklynartscouncil.org)

### ***Brooklyn Arts Council hosts Alive with Art A Party and Auction to Benefit the Arts in Brooklyn***

**(October 23, 2008, Brooklyn, NY)** Brooklyn Arts Council will hold its annual benefit and auction, *Alive with Art*, on **November 18, 2008 from 6:30-9:30pm** at the magnificent new clubhouse at Dyker Beach Golf Course. *Alive with Art* will honor Audrey and Joseph Anastasi and Agnes Murray for their many years of service to Brooklyn's cultural community. The benefit party, which includes artwork for auction by celebrated artists Lee Bontecou and Altoon Sultan, will be one of the very first held at Dyker Beach Golf Course following an extensive restoration.

Guests at *Alive with Art* will enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment by some of Brooklyn's finest performers, including a jazz and blues sextet fronted by the distinguished Renee Manning and Earl McIntyre, and dancer Kaina Quenga, who specializes in Polynesian traditions. A dynamic video installation by artists Ginger Andro and Chuck Glicksman will illuminate the space.

The benefit auction will include original prints by artists Lee Bontecou and Altoon Sultan; as well as limited-edition prints of the painting *The Eighth Hole at Dyker Beach* by Karen Roth printed exclusively for the occasion; new "altered book" pieces created by a group of talented Brooklyn artists, also created just for the occasion; a 5-night private yacht charter in the British Virgin Islands, gift certificates to Artisanal and Picholine; fine wines and a host of other tempting items.

#### **TICKETS**

Individual tickets are \$190, and group and corporate packages with ad pages in the commemorative journal are also available. All proceeds will benefit Brooklyn Arts Council's programs and services. Please visit [www.brooklynartscouncil.org](http://www.brooklynartscouncil.org) or contact Katy Higgins at 718.625.0080 for more information and to purchase tickets.

#### **ABOUT THE HONOREES**

**Audrey and Joseph Anastasi** are accomplished visual artists and passionate advocates for the arts community in Brooklyn. Both have played important roles in making Brooklyn Arts Council the healthy and growing organization it is today. In 2005, the Anastasis opened Tabla Rasa, a pioneering art gallery in Sunset Park, Brooklyn that exhibits artists working in a wide range of styles and media.

Audrey Anastasi has been a member of BAC's Board of Directors since 2001. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Dance Theater Etcetera (DTE) and was President of the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition (BWAC) for five years. A curator, gallery owner/director, educator and arts advocate, Audrey is, above all else, a tireless and dedicated working artist. She has an extensive history of exhibiting her artwork in the United States and abroad.

Born in Greenpoint and raised in Sunset Park and Bay Ridge, Joseph Anastasi brings a diverse background in technology and architectural design to his artwork. Among his site specific works and exhibitions are the William Carlos Williams Center in Rutherford New Jersey, Rockefeller Center and La Mama la Galleria in Manhattan, and Danny Simmons' Corridor Gallery in Brooklyn.

**Agnes Murray** is an artist, master printmaker, educator and an integral part of Brooklyn Arts Council. Agnes—BAC's most veteran staff member—has dedicated over ten years of service to our work on behalf of Brooklyn artists and arts organizations. She established the Council's Print Portfolio Project and has produced the Brooklyn Arts Council International Film Festival since 2002. As Art Services Director, Agnes coordinates BAC's fiscal sponsorship and technical assistance services and supervises all of the Council's government grants. Her prints, drawings and paintings are exhibited nationally and internationally and are included in the collections of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, Library of Congress, Brooklyn Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and many others.

#### **ABOUT BAC**

Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), an arts services organization founded in 1966, is the umbrella for Brooklyn's range of cultural groups and individual artists working in the visual, performing, media, and literary arts. BAC helps Brooklyn's artist population—from the experimental to those preserving and evolving traditions of cultural heritage—create and present their work. BAC ensures that thousands of people throughout Brooklyn have access to a variety of free arts programming each year. Our programs are essential to the livelihoods of thousands of artists, creative professionals, and arts organizations across the borough.

BAC's programs and support services include the Community Arts Regrant Program, Professional Development Seminars for the Arts, Arts in Education, BAC Folk Arts, the Printmaker's Portfolio Project, the BAC International Film and Video Festival, and BAC Gallery. BAC also offers technical assistance to individual artists and organization

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BAC programs are made possible, in part, with public funds from New York State Council on the Arts, the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and New York City Council and its Brooklyn Delegation.

