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CONTACT: Sandra Harris  
[sharris@americanwomenartists.org](mailto:sharris@americanwomenartists.org)  
314-527-0599

Hi Res images available upon request

## ***American Women Artists: Pushing Forward Reaching Back*** **Juried Exhibition at Brookgreen Gardens, South Carolina**

A new exhibition titled *American Women Artists: Pushing Forward Reaching Back*, opens May 13, 2023, and continues through July 23, 2023, at Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet, SC. This juried show features 100+ paintings and sculptures by members of American Women Artists (AWA). Accepted works will be announced mid-January 2023. A Grand Prize of \$10,000 and additional prizes of cash, merchandise, and media space will be awarded. The awards ceremony and opening reception take place May 12. All works will be available for sale.

Thursday, May 11, AWA hosts their annual *Symposium on Women in the Arts* with speakers Anne Brown, former Associate Publisher, Streamline Publishing, Brittany Ryan, sculptor and educator, Robin Salmon, VP of Art and Historical Collections/Curator of Sculpture, Brookgreen Gardens, Donna Howell-Sickles, artist, gallerist, and early AWA leader, Michele Marceau, owner, Principle Gallery and Jann Haynes Gilmore, PhD, art historian and AWA Board member.

Selection Jurors for *Pushing Forward Reaching Back* are Michele Marceau, owner of Principle Gallery, Tricia Loscher, PhD, Assistant Museum Director-Collections, Exhibitions, & Research at Western Spirit Scottsdale's Museum of the West, and Vanessa Rothe, designer, artist, curator, writer, and owner of Vanessa Rothe Fine Art. Artist Awards Jurors are Kaitee Floyd, owner, Cheryl Newby Gallery, Cheryl Newby, collector and retired founder of Cheryl Newby Gallery, and Robin R. Salmon, VP of Art and Historical Collections/Curator of Sculpture, Brookgreen Gardens.

AWA will produce a full color catalog with introduction by Jann Haynes Gilmore, PhD. An online exhibition will accompany the museum show and virtual events will include demonstrations and studio tours. Event details, images of exhibited works, and purchasing information will be posted on the AWA website: <https://americanwomenartists.org/>. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Sandra Harris, Executive Director of AWA since August 2021, said, "AWA is thrilled to partner with Brookgreen Gardens to bring the work of AWA members to its indoor exhibition spaces."

American Women Artists is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the inspiration, celebration, and encouragement of women in the visual fine arts. AWA began over 30 years ago and uses the power of collaboration to connect women artists and provide resources and opportunities to advance their careers. The *25 in 25* initiative was launched to highlight the work of its members and inspire dialog about the importance of gender equity in museum exhibitions.

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