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**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF LOUISVILLE AND LOUISVILLE VISUAL ART ASSOCIATION
TO ANNOUNCE 2015 WINNER OF MARY ALICE HADLEY PRIZE FOR VISUAL ART ON JUNE 11**

\$5,000 prize to be awarded in the third annual competition

(LOUISVILLE, KY) – The Community Foundation of Louisville and Louisville Visual Art Association will present Louisville-based painter, writer, illustrator and collage artist Julie Leidner with the third annual Mary Alice Hadley Prize for Visual Art on Thursday, June 11, at 11 a.m. The special event will be held at PUBLIC at LVAA, 131 W. Main St. The \$5,000 award is an opportunity for local artists to enhance their careers with an enrichment experience.

In collaboration with another local artist, Katy Delahanty, Leidner is pursuing a documentary-style graphic novel that tells the stories of pioneering feminist social activists in Kentucky. Leidner will use the \$5,000 Hadley Prize to travel to New York City to attend the 10th annual New York Art Book Fair and the seventh annual Contemporary Artists' Book Conference, as well as view museum exhibitions, attend panels and participate in workshops directly related to the collaborative project.

During the event, the award will be presented by Robert Hallenberg, Board President of LVAA, and Susan Barry, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Louisville.

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. The award is a partnership between the Community Foundation of Louisville and the Louisville Visual Art Association, which managed the application process.

The M.A. Hadley Prize Selection Committee comprises a diverse panel of arts professionals from both Louisville and the surrounding area. All 50 applicants this year were members of LVAA 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. Leidner was selected for her overall artistic vision, body of work, and the originality of her project.

“The selection committee was very impressed with the artistic samples that Julie provided because they showed true innovation,” said Hallenberg. “Additionally, the potential community impact that her project will have — telling the story of some of Louisville’s pioneering feminists — stood out for the jurors and underlined our interest in supporting the creative community within Louisville.”

When Leidner’s paternal grandmother died in the fall of 2014, she said she regretted not asking her more about her life, accomplishments and dreams. At the same, Delahanty’s paternal grandmother, Dolores Delahanty, a prominent figure in local government, was selecting a group of her peers to write memoirs about their lives and accomplishments.

“We jumped at the chance to combine forces with one another and with the 14 incredible women that Mrs. Delahanty has organized,” Leidner said. “With my grandmother in mind, I recognize that these particular women may not be able to share their wisdom first-hand for much longer, and Katy and I want to record and preserve their voices while it is still possible.

“Our graphic novel project aims to produce a creative multimedia display of our cross-generational dialogue, which we hope will demonstrate to the public how important these women (and women in general) have been in shaping local history and people’s lives,” Leidner added.

“Louisville is known for supporting our arts community in big ways,” said Barry. “The Hadley Prize is a bit different because it focuses on a single artist and a single project. The Community Foundation is proud to partner on this arts competition because we know that giving an artist like Julie the chance to focus on a targeted, personal enrichment experience can make all the difference in achieving her full potential, and ultimately Louisville will be the beneficiary.”

For more information about the event, contact Cara Baribeau at the Community Foundation of Louisville, 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, Hadley 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 her 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 Hadley 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 charitable foundation in Kentucky with over \$430 million in assets and more than 1,350 different funds, each with a charitable purpose defined by the donor. In 2014, the Community Foundation made over 8,000 grants totaling \$45 million to local, national and international nonprofits. Working together, the Foundation, its donors and community partners leverage

collective knowledge, creativity and resources for a greater impact than any of us can make alone. For more information, visit www.cflouisville.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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