

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2018 Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series continues with the Grand Weekend

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 9, 2018 – Wine and food lovers are invited to celebrate the amazing events of the 2018 Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series (MWFS) – the premier, longest-running wine series in Memphis.

The MWFS proudly continues the 26-year tradition of bringing together prominent vintners and award-winning chefs for a series of five fundraising events. All proceeds support the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art's flagship arts education programs for the Mid-South community. The 2018 series is presented by First Tennessee Foundation / ArtsFirst, Lexus, Mr. & Mrs. Andy Ticer, and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hudman.

The series began with an exclusive **Meet the Winemaker** dinner on Thursday, March 22. Guests at this sold-out event enjoyed a festive happy hour in Memphis' hottest new restaurant by chefs Andy Ticer and Michael Hudman, The Gray Canary, and met winemaker André Mack of Maison Noir Wines. For the first time in the series' 26-year history, the official kick-off party—**Brooks Uncorked**—included an appearance by the featured winemaker.

"The Brooks was proud to host the series' first African-American winemaker—André Mack—for this year's Brooks Uncorked, while the museum focuses on the powerful and moving photography of Ernest C. Withers in honor of MLK50 and the exuberant, colorful fabric exhibited in *African-Print Fashion Now! A Story of Taste, Globalization, and Style*," said Executive Director Emily Ballew Neff, Ph.D.

The third event of the series is the exclusive **North Berkeley Luncheon**, happening Friday, May 18. Participants will join award-winning chefs Andy Ticer and Michael Hudman in Downtown Memphis at Catherine & Mary's for lunch at noon, paired with wines from Billy Weiss and North Berkeley Imports.

This year's featured guests for the **Grand Artisans' Dinner** include representatives from Domaine Della, Devil Proof, Spire Collection, and Peay Vineyards. The 2018 award-winning chef team includes Andy Ticer, Michael Hudman, Ryan Prewitt, Breanne Kostyk, Jesse Houston, and Tony Galzin. This exclusive and intimate dinner will be held on the Terrace at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art on Friday, May 18. Featured wines will be showcased alongside a five-course dinner from our award-winning chefs.

The series' culminating event, the **Grand Auction**, takes place Saturday, May 19 under the tent on the plaza of the Brooks. Guests will settle into their seats for the evening live auction of 50 + lots, including rare and high-profile wines, exotic destinations, fine art, jewelry, tastings, and private dinners. Guests bid on these items while enjoying the wines and the company of our featured vintners and an abundance of food from Paradox Catering and Chef Jimmy Gentry. This is a high-energy live auction, with all proceeds going to the museum's education programs.

Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series is the museum's premier fundraising endeavor. Dollars raised from this season of events make the arts accessible to children and adults across the Mid-South. Over the past 26 years, the series has contributed over \$5 million in net revenue to the Brooks, which directly supports the museum's award-winning educational and community outreach programs. The museum is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution. With less than 12 percent of its budget provided by government funding, the Brooks relies on the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporations for support to meet operating costs and other expenses.

The chairs for the 2018 Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series are Emily and Bradley Rice and Sarah and David Thompson. The 2018 Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series is presented by First Tennessee Foundation / ArtsFirst, Lexus of Memphis, Mr. & Mrs. Andy Ticer, and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hudman. It is sponsored by SouthernSun Asset Management; Buster's Liquors and Wines; Dr. and Mrs. Roy Bors-Koefoed; Hauber Family Foundation; The Peabody Memphis; North Berkeley Imports; Dixon Hughes Goodman; UBS Parker Wealth Management Group; A2H, Inc.; Mr. and Mrs. Alan Balducci; Mr. and Mrs. David Thompson; Bradley Rice/The Fischer Company; LSI, Inc.; Charlie Hanavich; Raymond James; Morris

Auction Group; Kitchens Unlimited; Campbell Clinic; Shotwell Candy Company; Lynn Doyle; and Paulsen Printing.

2018 Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series dates and events:

- **Friday, May 18 | 12 p.m.**

North Berkeley Luncheon at Catherine & Mary's

Enjoy a lunch featuring food by chefs Andy Ticer and Michael Hudman and wines from Billy Weiss and North Berkeley Imports.

SOLD OUT.

- **Friday, May 18 | 6:30 p.m.**

Grand Artisans' Dinner at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

Enjoy this exclusive and intimate dinner, where wines from the featured winemakers will be showcased alongside a five-course dinner from our award-winning chef team.

Tickets are \$750 per person, which includes admission to the Grand Auction.

- **Saturday, May 19 | 5:30 p.m.**

Grand Auction at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

Raise your paddle and your glass to the event that only gets better with age.

Tickets are \$150 per person or \$2,500 for a reserved table for 12.

Background:

Founded in 1916 and located at 1934 Poplar Ave. in historic Overton Park, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is home to Tennessee's oldest and largest major collection of world art. More than 10,000 works make up the Brooks Museum's permanent collection, including works from ancient Greece, Rome, and the Americas; Renaissance masterpieces from Italy; English portraiture; American painting and decorative arts; contemporary art; and a survey of African art. The Brooks enriches the lives of our diverse community through the museum's expanding collection, varied exhibitions, and dynamic programs that reflect the art of world cultures from antiquity to the present. The Brooks gratefully acknowledges the support of ArtsMemphis, AutoZone, Hyde Family Foundation, the Jeniam Foundation, and Tennessee Arts Commission. For more information about the Brooks and all other exhibitions and programs, call 901.544.6200 or visit www.brooksmuseum.org.

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