

MISSISSIPPI'S CREATIVE VISION

Andrew Bucci

Jackson, Mississippi-based artist and teacher Marie Hull (1890-1980) taught many artists, but she considered Andrew Bucci to be one of her most talented students. Like his mentor, this adventuresome artist has worked in both abstract and figurative modes, and in a wide range of media. "His work is lyrical and inventive, embracing expressionism and its variations. His signature style is calligraphic, with flowing structural lines and delicate colors," writes Patti Carr Black in *The Mississippi Story*. As may be seen in his 1979 painting, *Fox Fire*, Bucci's technique of applying color in short, repeated strokes creates a sense of movement, as though the colors were dancing on the surface. Dashes of black peek through the crosshatched blue field, along with undulant brushstrokes of bright red pigment – representing the luminescence emitted by a decaying log during the phenomenon of fox fire.



Andrew Bucci (born 1922), *Fox Fire*, 1979, oil on board. Collection of Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson. Gift of the artist. 1977.009. © copyright the artist.

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Bucci was born in 1922. He studied with Mary Clare Sherwood in Vicksburg and later, in the 1930s, with Marie Hull in Jackson. He continued to paint with Hull during his undergraduate career at Louisiana State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in architectural engineering. During World War II, he was stationed in Paris, France, where he worked as a meteorologist and studied at the Académie Julian. After the war, he worked in Vicksburg at the U.S. Weather Bureau until 1947, when his avocation of art became his vocation, and he enrolled at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Art Institute in 1952 and his Master of Fine Arts two years later.

Washington, D.C. has been home for Bucci for several decades. He has exhibited there with the Society of Washington Artists, at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. He also remains active in Mississippi and in the Southeast. He is represented by galleries in Jackson and in New Orleans, Louisiana, and his work is widely collected by private individuals and by museums, including the Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock; the Brooks Memorial Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee; Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi; Florence Art Gallery, South Carolina; the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson; and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, Louisiana. An art collector himself, over the past twenty years Bucci has donated 100 works of art from his personal collection – including Japanese woodcuts, a lithograph by Henri Matisse, and etchings by Giovanni Battista Piranesi and Francisco Goya – to the Mississippi Museum of Art. On February 26, Governor Haley Barbour presented Bucci with the 2009 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts for Lifetime Achievement.



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HIGHLIGHTS

“Angels” Recognized by SEMC

The Museum's 2007 exhibition *Between God and Man: Angels in Italian Art* received an honorable mention in the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) 2008 Curator's Competition. Recognized for its outstanding level of interpretation and installation, "Angels" and the Museum were honored at SEMC's 2008 annual meeting held this past October in Birmingham, Alabama. SEMC is a nonprofit membership organization that serves twelve Southeastern states as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. SEMC's mission is "...to increase educational and professional development opportunities, improve the interchange of ideas and information, and encourage respect and collegiality."



Mississippi World Trade Center Honors Bradley

MMA Director Betsy Bradley received the Mississippi World Trade Center's (MSWTC) 2008 award for Global Arts & Culture. Citing Bradley's "outstanding leadership, service and contributions in promoting international art as a means of connecting our community to the world," MSWTC Board President Joe Waggoner made the formal award presentation at the organization's Annual Meeting and Global Arts & Jazz Gala in November. According to MWTC Executive Director Barbara Travis, Bradley's "... career history and entrepreneurial spirit perfectly demonstrate everything the MSWTC promotes ... international expertise; superior knowledge of world culture; professionalism; and a willingness to share information so that all Mississippians and Mississippi businesses become more profitable."



Brother Anselm (William "Billy" Hollingsworth III) visited the Museum last fall. He is shown in front of his portrait, *Billy and Boy*, painted by his father, William Hollingsworth, Jr., in 1942. Brother Anselm is a Benedictine monk and resides at St. Joseph Abbey in St. Benedict, Louisiana.

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