



Exhibition: Avon Williams Library – Tennessee State University
May-June, 2018

Aptly dubbed “The Athens of the South”, Nashville continues to grow as a center for both visual and performing arts. In fact it would be



appropriate to say that Nashville is currently exploding as a center for the arts. Prior to 1950 there was no cohesive arts organization in the city to promote art or art education. In 1950 two art teachers from Vanderbilt University, one from Ward-Belmont and another from the University of Tennessee Extension School brought together some of their students with

other local professional artists and created a new and unique organization. Thirty artists were accepted at that time and the new group was called The Nashville Artist Guild.

Because the original members were themselves fine artists and many served on the faculties of local schools and universities, the rules established from the beginning required higher standards for the work of new applicants. Never meant to be a large all-encompassing umbrella



group for artists, the Guild accepted only those who were serious about their work and their commitment to art.

Over the years the Guild has mounted some very significant exhibitions. A few of the venues in Nashville were: The University Club, Cheekwood, The Hermitage, the Tennessee State Museum and the Parthenon.

But always there was the emphasis on excellence: quality not quantity.

