



With Professor James Beck, Mason helped to form the non-profit organization "ArtWatch International" that continues to protect works of art to this day. While Frank will be remembered as a defender of the Old Masters his legacy as a prolific artist and inspiring educator will form his place in history.



FRANK MASON

A Passion for Painting

February 4 - March 11, 2017
 Opening reception:
 Saturday, February 4, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
 University Museum at IUP

For more information on Frank Mason
 and to contact the Frank Mason Estate please visit
www.FrankMason.org

Special thanks to:
 Estate of Frank Mason
 John R. Tomayko
 M. Dan Mason
 Joan Davison Mason

The University Museum
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Sutton Hall • 1011 South Drive • Indiana, PA 15705
 For information, telephone 724-357-2397.

FREE admission to exhibitions and related public programs
 Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 Thursday Noon - 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday Noon to 4 p.m.

The University Museum is an institutional member of the
 American Alliance of Museums.

www.iup.edu/museum

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Art from front panel:
 Artist's Mother at Tea

This panel, from the top:
 Storm Over Peacham
 Garden Glory
 Art Students



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Indiana University of Pennsylvania





“If you are looking
for something

to be brave about
consider fine arts.”

- John Ruskin



In the 1970s Mason's trained eye pitted him against the Metropolitan Museum of Art when he condemned the new restoration practices led by the conservator John Brealey. Rembrandt paintings that Mason had carefully studied for over three decades were returning from the Met's restoration laboratory with alarming alterations. Layers of delicate glazes had been removed and Rembrandt's signature mark of vibrant colors had been diminished.



Above:
Nude in Motion

Left:
Walter Mason Sr. (Father of Artist)

Below:
Brittany Rooftops, Isle de Batz

Right:
Tom Kennedy, Camp Iroquois

Mason organized a march on the Met to protest these cleaning practices and was able to negotiate a brief moratorium. As aggressive restoration practices persisted Mason increased his efforts to spread awareness. They culminated in a movement with many others in the art world to protest the controversial cleaning of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel.

Ruskin's quote strikes at the heart of Frank Mason's philosophy toward life and painting. "Can you breathe life into them!" Mason often challenged his students when swiping loaded paint brushes across classroom canvases. His passion for learning and teaching remained central throughout his life and in the words of Columbia University Art Historian, James Beck, "he kept the light burning" for three generations of art students.

Mason attended LaGuardia High School of Music and Art but it was his enrollment at the Art Students League of New York where he found a true mentor under the guidance of Frank Vincent Dumond. Upon Dumond's death in 1951 Mason was elected by the students to become the new Instructor of Fine Arts at the League. It was in Dumond's classroom that Mason developed the type of critical thinking and technical skills that set him apart from other artists in the 1950s and 60s. A shifting art world began to value the novelty of art theory over the traditional principles of centuries old art, setting in motion the rising tide of modernism. Mason remained dedicated to the disciplines of traditional art throughout his life, which resulted in his position as an authority on the subject.

