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Beverly Hills Public Library Unveils Beautiful Art in Children's Library **Three Murals Capture Essence of Enchanted Woods Program**

On Sunday, June 7, the Beverly Hills Public Library unveiled three murals by artists Marion Dies and Marian Westall.

Artists Marion Dies and Marian Westall were unanimously selected by a committee from 30 artist submissions to produce three beautiful children's murals: "The Enchanted Woods", "Depths of Imagination", and "Flights of Imagination." Seasoned, lifelong artists, Ms. Dies and Ms. Westall have painted murals all over the globe for clients as diverse as Disneyland, the Gene Autry Museum and the Cheesecake Factory.

Marion Dies said, "When I heard Friends of the Beverly Hills Library was looking for artists to provide art for the Children's Library, I thought it would be great to work with Marian because we're personal as well as professional friends and I respect her work so I thought let's approach it as a team and see what happens."

"The Murals are like big flat books on the walls," said Marian Westall. "I feel each one looks like a child's book and there's a story there. Each one is a fantasy in this little world and it takes your mind to places that teach you to be creative and dream."

As part of the beautiful Children's Library renovation, the Friends of the Beverly Hills Library wanted to provide original art to adorn the walls. They also wanted to recognize the tradition of the Enchanted Woods program which was started in 1984 by Rita Lipkis, a local librarian, who worked with library staff to develop a collection of children's books that would cultivate an appreciation of fine children's books and illustrations. "These murals bring art to the kids," said Friends of Library incoming President Monique Gibbons. "Public art is crucial in our time and isn't meant to be displayed only in museums. It should be living and breathing and these murals are an example of just that."

The Friends set out to raise funds to pay for this wonderful project, and in a short amount of time raised over \$90,000. Biggest donors were Lili and Jon Bosse. Other donors included:

Charlotte & Dan Skura
Michael J. Libow
In memory of Leota Lightfoot
The Frank Linder Family
Jeannette & Mervyn Mandelbaum

Fred Hayman Family Foundation
 The Rothner Family
 Michele and Joseph Gabai
 In Memory of Nancy Citron
 3rd Thursday Book Club in honor of Julie Robinson

Nearly 75 people joined Assistant Director of Community Services Nancy Hunt-Coffey to view the unveiling, including Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold, Councilmember and donor to the project Lili Bosse, President of the Friends of the Library Jean Rosenblatt, and other donors to the project in attendance include Friends of the Library Board member Barbara Linder, Friends of the Library Board member Charlotte Skura, Michael Libow, Kathi and Curt Rothner.



Pictured l to r: Artist Marian Westall and Marion Dies With Councilmember and project donor Lili Bosse, Mayor Julian Gold and Friends of Library Board Member Barbara Linder. **Mural: Enchanted Woods**



Pictured l to r: Artist Marian Westall, Community Services Assistant Director Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Mayor Julian Gold and Councilmember and project donor Lili Bosse. **Mural: Depths of Imagination.**



Pictured l to r: Friends of Library President Jean Rosenblatt, Mayor Julian Gold and Councilmember and project donor Lili Bosse. **Mural: Enchanted Woods.**



Mural: Flights of Imagination
 Young reader enchanted with Flights of Imagination mural.