



Media Inquiries:

Cheryl Strichik: [cheryl@monthavenarts.org](mailto:cheryl@monthavenarts.org)

(615) 293-3767

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ARTISTS POLLY COOK AND SOMERS RANDOLPH CELEBRATE LOVE AT MONTHAVEN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER IN HENDERSONVILLE, TENN.**

**HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (Jan. 13, 2026)** – Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center is celebrating Valentine’s Day early with an exhibit showcasing the works of two prominent contemporary artists. The exhibition, titled *The Art of Love*, will feature the romantic paintings and ceramics of Polly Cook along with the sculptural hearts of Somers Randolph. The exhibit runs Jan. 17 to Feb. 15, 2026.

“We can’t think of a better way to celebrate Valentine’s than with the art of Polly Cook and Somers Randolph,” says Cheryl Strichik, the MACC’s executive director. “Themes of desire, joy and love run throughout all of Polly’s colorful pieces, and Somers’ perfectly polished stone hearts are filled with romance. This exhibit is guaranteed to get people in the mood for love.”

Cook is well-known for her ceramics and large paintings on canvas. Her colorful works merge storytelling, memory and the unconscious, usually incorporating the theme of love. Growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, she developed an early love for the romantic poets Byron, Shelley and Keats, as well as an interest in pre-Raphaelite artists. She also became fascinated with German Expressionism and the German Realists of the 1920s. Both movements would exert an influence on her style and a penchant for romantic themes.

Randolph creates his one-of-a-kind sculptures from stone found in every continent.

Marble, granite, alabaster, onyx, and even lapis, have yielded unique shapes, with personalities that shift and change as they interact with light. Light bounces off the surface of an opaque sculpture, highlighting and drawing out hidden details, but penetrates deeply in translucent material, making the work glow and come alive.

An opening reception for *The Art of Love* takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, January 17, 2025 at the MACC. Cook will be on hand to greet visitors and discuss her art.

Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) is a jewel-box art museum and education facility housed in one of Tennessee's most spectacular antebellum mansions. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the MACC has staged exhibitions featuring everything from the ceramic art of Pablo Picasso to the evening gowns of Princess Diana. The artwork of local artists and military veterans are also on frequent display. As an art school, the MACC offers classes to more than 1,000 children and adults each year. The MACC also provides free arts outreach and healing arts to underserved children, families and military veterans. For more information, visit [www.monthavenarts.org](http://www.monthavenarts.org) or call (615) 822-0789.

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