

# ***Marblehead Festival of Arts***

***For Immediate Release***

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## **Media Contact**

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URL: [www.MarbleheadFestival.org](http://www.MarbleheadFestival.org)

## ***Gene Arnould Headlines as MFA Art Auctioneer***

*Marblehead Festival of Arts Gears Up for April 9th Fundraiser*

**Marblehead, MA (March 16, 2006)** – The Marblehead Festival of Arts announced today that Gene Arnould, owner of the Arnould Gallery & Framery (111 Washington Street, Marblehead) would once again headline their annual Art Auction fundraiser as Auctioneer. Gene will be joined by guest auctioneers Leslie Gould (Marblehead Chamber of Commerce), State Representative Doug Peterson and festival supporters Brian and Nancy McCarthy. As guest auctioneers, these MFA enthusiasts will add not only their professional expertise, but also some fun local color to this important Marblehead tradition. The Art Auction is the key fundraiser for the Marblehead Festival of Arts, a premier summer arts festival held each year over July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. It plays host to a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts, Writer's World, the Street Festival, Children's Festival, Artisan's Marketplace and more.

## **Gene Arnould Biography**

One of Marblehead's favorite (adopted) sons, Gene Arnould was born and raised in rural northern Illinois, received a B.A. from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, and a Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Harvard Divinity School in 1972 and 1974 concentrating on Theology and the Arts. During his stint at Harvard, Arnould moved to Marblehead where he was on staff of the Old North Church as Minister to Youth and Education from 1971 to 1975. During those years, Gene fell hopelessly in love with Marblehead and everything about it – its wonderful winding streets, its history, the Harbor, and especially its people. "Not only the natives whose family connections go back to its beginnings, but those transplanted residents like myself who feel at home here and want to help make it a better place," adds Arnould.

After more graduate work in theatre at Indiana University in 1975, Gene Arnould quickly saw the error of his ways, and returned to Marblehead in 1976. He opened Arnould Gallery in 1978 and has been at that post ever since, representing many local and regional artists as well as artists from across the country and framing a range of treasures from Picasso's (really) to local kids' masterpieces. His experience with the Marblehead Festival of Arts began from that first summer in Marblehead and grew after opening the gallery. He has been involved with the Festival in some way every year since, and has volunteered to be an auctioneer every year that he remembers since 1979. He served briefly on the Board of Directors and on various committees, as well.

Arnould's love of jazz led him to found Marblehead Summer Jazz with a couple of friends in 1985 and 2006 will represent their 22<sup>nd</sup> season. "I'm very proud of the truly internationally renowned jazz players we have brought to Marblehead in those 22 years. Week after week many of them are playing the major clubs in New York City or Jazz Festivals around the world and many are among the 'Best' in both critics and readers polls done annually by *Downbeat*, *Jazz Times*, and *Jazziz* Magazines," reports Arnould.

Still hopelessly enamored with Marblehead, Arnould offers, "This town is one of the great treasures of the world and I feel fortunate to have a home here. The Marblehead Festival of Arts is one of its great treasures and I, likewise, feel fortunate to have a place among its many volunteers and supporters."

#### **Photo Captions:**

GeneArnould.jpg: Gene Arnould leads the action at the 2005 Marblehead Festival of Arts Auction.

AuctionScene2.jpg: The bidding was intense at the 2005 MFA Art Auction, raising necessary funds for the Marblehead Festival of Arts.

#### **Photo Credits for Attached Pictures: Herb Goldberg, Marblehead**

#### **About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFA)**

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor,

Writer's World, the Street Festival, Children's Festival, Artisan's Marketplace and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts Inc is a not-for-profit organization comprised of area residents who volunteer their time and services in a variety of capacities. With the mission to promote and foster artistic events and activities in the town of Marblehead, this organization was launched in 1962 by producing an annual Arts Festival. Today, in addition to its summer arts program, the Marblehead Festival of Arts sponsors events throughout the year, promotes area artists, supports up and coming art students via an annual scholarship and contributes to the overall cultural climate of Marblehead.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year round and relies primarily on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call: **781-639-ARTS (639-2787)** or visit: [www.marbleheadfestival.org](http://www.marbleheadfestival.org)

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