

**Project Intent:**

To commission a site specific work of art to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Friends of Art and to mark the dedication of a new addition to, as well as the comprehensive renovation of, Sweet Briar College's Mary Helen Cochran Library.

**Project Information:**

The Friends of Art is a philanthropic organization comprising alumnae, students, faculty, and other members of the Sweet Briar College community that encourages the study and enjoyment of the visual arts on campus by supporting art acquisitions and educational programs.

The intention of the Friends of Art board, in conjunction with a committee of studio art and art history faculty and professional staff of the College art gallery, is to work with an environmental artist, sculptor, landscape artist, and/or architect to create a site specific work of art that is responsive to the spectacular landscape of the Sweet Briar campus, its early 20<sup>th</sup> century Beaux-Arts style architecture, its strong liberal arts tradition, and the rich history of the area.

The College's mission has long been the encouragement of a diverse educational environment where learning occurs in a variety of circumstances, in the classroom, the community, and the world. Thus, student participation in the development of a concept for the work is of particular interest to the Friends of Art board members, who see this commission as an educational opportunity for students and faculty in a number of disciplines, including art, literature, history, and the social and environmental sciences. The Friends of Art board members hope that the work of art resulting from this broad process of discovery will engage future students in many ways and stimulate scholastic discourse, social fellowship, and aesthetic pleasure.

Cochran Library, as well as the College's core buildings, was designed in a Beaux-Arts style in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Boston -based architect Ralph Adams Cram. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in west central Virginia, Sweet Briar is known for its beautiful landscapes (the campus comprises over 3,000 acres) and historic architecture. Twenty-one of the school's oldest buildings, including Cochran Library, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.