



MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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KCPT to Air Documentary on Famed Midwestern Muralist Eric Bransby

Art for the People Paints Story of 103-Year Old Artist Who Studied at KCAI Under Thomas Hart Benton

KANSAS CITY, MO April 29, 2020 — KCPT, Kansas City PBS, will air *Art for the People*, a bio documentary that reveals the life and work of Eric Bransby, a respected and admired artist known for his dozens of extraordinary public murals in Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Illinois, and Utah, on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Throughout the 20th century, Bransby taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, attended the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI), and studied under renowned American artist Thomas Hart Benton. Bransby became known for his murals, where he created pieces for Kansas State University, the municipal building in Liberty, MO, the University of Missouri and more.

KCPT believes in the power of media on every platform and seeks to use that power to enrich, engage and entertain our viewers both on-air and online. We strive to advance conversations through community engagement and social media; explore complicated issues facing our region with ongoing reporting, investigative reports and informed discussions; and share the stories of people, places, and progress in our community.



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“We couldn’t be more excited to air *Art for the People* and share the story of Eric Bransby,” said Kliff Kuehl, President & CEO of KCPT. “His contributions to Kansas City and the art community as a whole are immeasurable.”

Now 103 years old, Eric is a dedicated, inspiring and caring teacher and an integral part of both Kansas City and Colorado Springs art history. *Art for the People* also reveals the story of his 70+ year relationship with the love of his life, fellow artist and KCAI student Mary Ann Bransby.

“Eric Bransby’s life has been nothing short of extraordinary,” said producer Erin Hannan, Director of Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. “He’s studied under so many of the greats, and in turn, taught what he knew to subsequent generations of artists, muralists and creators. The reach of his works throughout the Midwest is almost unparalleled.”

Art for the People is directed by Nancy Bentley and John Atkinson, a husband and wife film team, who have been fans of Eric Bransby since interviewing him four years ago for a film about the mural art of Colorado Springs. Nancy is a writer, former educator and librarian, and John is a former Peace Corps volunteer, systems analyst and data specialist. They co-directed the film while Nancy worked on the script and story, and John edited the film.

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KCPT is a non-profit multimedia organization located in midtown Kansas City. Founded in 1961, KCPT operates four television channels, as well as working with sister brands Flatland, a digital news and culture magazine, and 90.9 The Bridge, an NPR music discovery public radio station.

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