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as of June 30, 2004

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We were all saddened by the passing of Kayla Skinner and Margery Friedlander, longtime friends and Trustees of SAM.



“Kayla Skinner was a Board member of SAM since 1973, and a great patron of the arts over all the years I knew her. I don’t think the visual arts or the museum was the most important thing in her life, but she had so many intellectual interests it’s difficult to say which one had priority.

“She had a quicksilver mind. Ideas came to her far faster than she could articulate them. The result was a stutter that I suspect she cultivated, knowing full well that it was part of her charm. And, indeed, charm she had, but also, for a very small person, a very commanding presence. The combination was powerful. I don’t think I ever won an argument with Kayla even when I was pretty sure reason was on my side.

“Her favorite adjective was “undimensional” which she applied to anything not up to her standards, whether books, plays or people. I heard it many times without knowing exactly what it meant except that it was pejorative.

“Some years ago Kayla won an award as a supporter of the arts, and I introduced her at a lunch for the Arts Fund. I said at the time that her great talent was the ability to tell what was really important as opposed to what was merely adept and derivative. But she had many talents. At her funeral her good friend Gordon Brown said he had never known anyone remotely like her. Neither have I.”

— Bagley Wright, arts patron, SAM Trustee and long-time friend of Kayla



SAM honors the memory of Margery Friedlander, a dear friend of the Seattle Art Museum who passed away this year. Originally from Chicago, she moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington, and the Seattle art community will be forever grateful for her decision to move west. Throughout her lifetime, Marge was a passionate supporter of the arts community, especially in Seattle. SAM was most fortunate that she was a member of our Board of Trustees for twenty-five years. A dedicated fundraiser, Marge was instrumental in the growth

and development of SAM’s membership programs and chaired many of its social events. She cared deeply that the museum always showed its best face and took great care in making sure every detail, no matter how small, was carefully planned and managed.

In addition to her leadership at SAM, Marge was also a lifetime director of PONCHO and a Trustee at the Pacific Northwest Ballet. Those throughout the Seattle arts community will deeply miss Marge’s leadership and warm friendship.