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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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- 1 Painter Emily Mason featured in new Brattleboro Words
- 2 Trail podcast

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- 4 TEXT BODY:

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- 5 Abstract painter Emily Mason (1932–2019)is the subject
- 6 of a new Brattleboro Words Trail podcast episode. The story sheds
- 7 light on an “enigmatic artist” organizers described in a news
- 8 release as having helped shape the creative identity of this New
- 9 England cultural hub from her Brattleboro farm. They say her
- 10 “vivid work defies categorization and is enjoying a surge of
- 11 international interest.”

12 The 35-minute episode features never-before-shared
13 archival commentary from Mason herself, along with intimate
14 insights from her daughter, Melany Kahn, and Steven Rose,
15 director of the Emily Mason and Alice Trumbull Mason
16 Foundation. The podcast is free and available at [brattleboro-
17 words-trail-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes/emily-mason](https://brattleboro-words-trail-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes/emily-mason).

18 “Since my mother’s death, her work has found an
19 audience much deeper than it did when she was alive,” Kahn
20 said in the news release. “You can see the evolution of her voice
21 through her paintings. Even though it was experimental and
22 unique, and not always commercially viable early on, she never
23 once strayed from it, and that discipline and self-confidence is
24 recognized now.”

25 A founder and supporter of the Brattleboro Museum &
26 Art Center, Mason split her time between Brattleboro and New
27 York City, devoting herself daily to her Brattleboro studio from
28 May through October. “Vermont, especially Brattleboro, jibed in
29 a way that I don’t think many other places on this planet would
30 have been such a good fit,” Kahn said.

31 Mason was “part of a lineage of important American
32 artists, though her creative methodology and vision were
33 uniquely her own,” organizers wrote. Her mother, Alice Trumbull
34 Mason, co-founded and led American Abstract Artists in 1936.
35 Another ancestor, John Trumbull, was a noted portraitist of the
36 American Revolution.

37 Mason died on Dec. 10, 2019 — the birth date of her
38 namesake, Emily Dickinson, whose influence Mason discusses in
39 the podcast. In September 2025, Rizzoli Electa published “Emily
40 Mason: Unknown to Possibility,” the first comprehensive
41 monograph of Mason’s life and art, timed to coincide with her
42 first show in Paris. Mason was married for 62 years to painter
43 Wolf Kahn, who died just months after her in 2020. They are
44 buried together in Brattleboro.

45 Mason was a dedicated educator, teaching painting at
46 Hunter College (CUNY) for more than 30 years. Her work is held

47 in numerous major public and private collections, and “her
48 legacy endures as one of the most influential colorists and
49 abstract painters of her generation,” said organizers.

50 Music featured in the podcast is by Marlboro-based duo
51 Red Heart the Ticker (Ty Gibbons and Robin MacArthur). Folk
52 duo Anna and Elizabeth also perform Margaret MacArthur’s
53 “Mother in the Graveyard” in the piece. The podcast page
54 separately features Brattleboro poet Morgan English reading her
55 poem “Emily, or To Light, Once Again,” commissioned for the
56 “Unknown to Possibility” monograph.

57 The piece was written and produced by Lissa Weinmann,
58 host-producer of the Brattleboro Words Trail Podcast, with help
59 from Dave Snyder at Guilford Sound and BCTV.

60 The podcast series tells the stories of intriguing and
61 influential cultural figures from the Brattleboro area, produced by
62 the Brattleboro Words Project, a Brooks Memorial Library
63 program inspired by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

64 The Project has produced the award-winning,
65 community-created “Brattleboro Words Trail” audio tours,
66 featured in an exhibit at Brattleboro’s Amtrak Station; introduced
67 hundreds of community members and students to the art of audio
68 storytelling; and published the book *Print Town: Brattleboro’s*
69 *Legacy of Words*, available at local bookstores. For more
70 information, visit BrattleboroWords.org.

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