



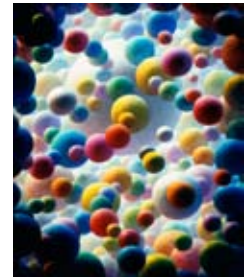
## CLAUDE BRAGDON AND FRITZ TRAUTMANN, ROCHESTER ARTISTS AND VISIONARIES, ARE SUBJECT OF NEW MAG EXHIBITION



ROCHESTER, NY, July 2, 2010 — A new exhibition organized by the Memorial Art Gallery examines the previously unexplored relationship between two Rochester artists and visionaries—Claude Bragdon (1866–1946) and Fritz Trautmann (1882–1971).

*Episodes from an Unwritten History: Claude Bragdon and Fritz Trautmann* opens at the Gallery on August 13 and remains on view through December 12. It brings together 15 original works by the artists which demonstrate how shared ideas about cosmic forces in art and life fueled their mutual influence and lifelong friendship. Also on view are their unpublished letters and writings, in which Bragdon and the younger Trautmann probed the elements

of art and perception and explored unknown realms of the imagination.



*Episodes from an Unwritten History* is presented in honor of Jean France, architectural historian.

### About the artists

Architect, author and theater designer **Claude Bragdon** excelled in multiple fields and disciplines. One of his most significant innovations was “projective ornament”—a design system he invented. In this and in much of his creative endeavor, Bragdon saw deep organic connections with the natural world that were informed by his belief in theosophy, his sympathy with Eastern thought and his desire to unite a society fractured along lines of race, gender, class and religion. Recently, he has been the subject of an [exhibition at the University of Rochester](#) and a [book published by the Rochester Institute of Technology](#).

**Fritz Trautmann** began his career in the early 20th century as a landscape architect in Rochester. He spent years seeking alternative outlets for his creative spirit and his love for color, painting and philosophy; he ultimately found his passion in teaching. For nearly 50 years, Trautmann taught painting and his unique color theory at the Mechanics Institute (now Rochester Institute of Technology) and the Memorial Art Gallery’s art school, the Creative Workshop.

### Lectures at MAG

- Sunday, September 19, 2 pm: MAG assistant curator Jessica Marten explores the exhibition in this month’s “What’s Up” talk. It’s followed by the opportunity to ask questions and is included in Gallery admission.
- Sunday, October 10, 2 pm: Linda D. Henderson, professor of art history at the University of Texas at Austin, speaks on “Claude Bragdon and Modern Art.” It’s included in Gallery admission.

### MAG on the web:

<http://mag.rochester.edu>

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ABOVE LEFT: Claude Bragdon, *Mathematical Abstraction No. 5 “Study in complementaries”* (ca. 1939-41). Gift of a Friend of the Gallery.  
ABOVE RIGHT: Fritz Trautmann, *Galaxy* (1942). Marion Stratton Gould Fund.