

## **PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release**

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### **Brookhaven Arts Festival Celebrates 8 years of Bringing the Brookhaven Community Together**

**BROOKHAVEN: September 19, 2011**

The Brookhaven Arts Festival proudly celebrates its 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 2011 Brookhaven Arts Festival presented by Brookhaven Bank returns to Apple Valley Road on Saturday and Sunday, October 15th and 16th. Located directly behind the Brookhaven-Oglethorpe MARTA station, this arts and entertainment event is convenient to everyone in Atlanta.

Free to the public, the Brookhaven Arts Festival offers a little something for everyone. More than 125 juried artists will be displaying and marketing their fine arts. This year's featured artist, and poster design winner is Deona Fish. Deona Fish's "Sleepy Little Dreams" are paintings that open a doorway into a nostalgic world where whim and simplicity guide you into feelings and memories still lingering from childhood. Her characters are expressions of the innocence inherent in all beings, the common thread we share with all life. It is wonderfully obvious that her source of inspiration was the preschool and kindergarten children she taught, along with her three year old son. Her paintings embody their innate sense of creativity but with a calm tone and muted color cultivated by her time with nature in her little cabin on the side of a hill in Leicester, NC. Be sure to pick up a poster or t-shirt featuring Deona's wonderful artwork.

Throughout the weekend guests can enjoy a variety of live music performances. Saturday's line-up begins with a Brookhaven favorite Browne & Taylor. Judy Browne is a native of Atlanta, and has been singing professionally for over twenty years. She was one of the featured vocalists in "The Mustangs". Marvin Taylor is a veteran of Atlanta groups "Mose Jones" "Out A Hand" and "Java Monkey" and international tours with Francine Reed. "The Browne And Taylor Project" is their brand new Contemporary Blues CD. Guest appearing after Browne & Taylor is the Anna Marie Perry Band. To round out Saturday's performances is Shaken...Not Stirred a popular 5 piece band from Atlanta specializing in classic rock, Motown and R&B favorites that make you want to get up and dance. They play many of the area's best clubs and are a favorite for private parties and weddings. See more about the band and their music at [www.shakennotstirredband.com](http://www.shakennotstirredband.com). Be sure to stick around Saturday evening for a little more fun and rock from Shaken...Not Stirred at the block party from 6p – 7:30p.

Sunday begins with the musical sounds of Gwen Hughes. "The mix of elegant jazz and earthy blues found in Gwen Hughes makes her an artist not easily categorized. In the end, she is best described as a fusion artist - a fusion of blues, rock and jazz. She's a Board Governor with the Atlanta Recording Academy; an Artist in Residence with the former GA Music Hall of Fame & a multiple winner of Creative Loafing's Best Jazz Artist. Her latest release, "Instead of Light," was produced in Manhattan by Blue Note veteran, Danny Kopelson. Her EP of children's music is available only on iTunes, "Big Kids Jazz." Performing next will be Women of Rock with Doghouse. Women of Rock is Caroline Aiken, Diane Durrett and Donna Hopkins, 3 independent and well-established artists, each with their own career, national tours and bands. They will come together to create beautiful harmonies and a funk rock blues experience. Caroline Aiken, often sighted as one of the cornerstones of the Decatur folk movement, has long been at the forefront of modern folk and acoustic expression. To her credit, she's never compromised her vision, weakened her stance or sold out her muse for monetary or social gain. Her newest release continues in her familiar, no-nonsense tradition, and the recording finds the singer-songwriter in fine form, augmented with sparse and tasteful accompaniment. Caroline tours nationally and internationally, and she has toured/performed with B52s and Mother's Finest (at Ga Music Hall of Fame), Bonnie Raitt, and the Indigo Girls. ([www.carolineaiken.com](http://www.carolineaiken.com)) Diane Durrett: "She's good. She's damn good." Sting's summation of his duet with singer songwriter Diane Durrett speaks for anyone who's ever heard her perform. A Memphis reporter once wrote that Diane's performance was so powerful that "If you don't go see her she may just come see you!" With a blend of raw soulful vocals, sultry tones and strong original songs Durrett has sung with Sting, The Indigo Girls, Gregg Allman, Chuck Leavell (Rolling Stones) and Peter Stroud (Sheryl Crow). Durrett has opened shows for Tina Turner, Faith Hill, Little Feat, Delbert McClinton and Derek Trucks. ([www.dianedurrett.com](http://www.dianedurrett.com)) Donna Hopkins can be at turns raw and articulate. She's her own woman, but think equal parts John Lee Hooker and Billy Gibbons, with a dash of Jimmie Vaughan and Robin Trower circa Bridge of Sighs. Donna's wonderful CD "Free To Go" is available now! It has twelve great tracks including the title song and favorites like Dirty Alabama Road, Don't Ask Why, and two versions of Everything Money Can't Buy including one with Donna and her daughter India on vocals together. ([www.donnahopkins.com](http://www.donnahopkins.com)) Doghouse is a funk rock fusion Atlanta band that writes originals that make you want to get up and dance! Doghouse is Val Dempsey, Terry Frye and Ted Hoyer. They have all toured with and opened for national acts. CEI is an Audio Video Technology

Company that does consulting, engineering and project management throughout the United States for a wide variety of clients. CEI is providing the sound equipment for Women of Rock show.

The location for the festival is Apple Valley Road between North Druid Hills and Dresden Drive behind the Brookhaven MARTA station. Parking is available in the MARTA lot and for fast and easy access, patrons are encouraged to use the train. The festivities will run from 10am-6pm on Saturday and 12pm-6pm on Sunday.

The Brookhaven Arts Festival is an exciting opportunity to give back to the community. We are a 100% volunteer organization and we rely on your help to get the job done. We have several areas in need of assistance for the day of the festival. From working with children to helping the artists, we have an opportunity for you. For more information please contact volunteer coordinator Christy Murray, [christy4thebaa@hotmail.com](mailto:christy4thebaa@hotmail.com).

This two-day event was planned and coordinated by the award winning Brookhaven Arts Alliance. The BAA is a non-profit group whose mission is to provide art education and promote cultural awareness to the Brookhaven community and its visitors. For more information about the Brookhaven Arts Festival, volunteer opportunities, corporate matching program, or membership, please visit [www.brookhavenartsalliance.com](http://www.brookhavenartsalliance.com), connect with the Brookhaven Arts Alliance on Facebook or contact Executive Director Gretchen Roberts at 404-210-4107.