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Friends of Clara Straight

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### **ADDITIONAL INFO**

To arrange for credit card payment or automatic monthly giving from your bank account please contact the Kirksville Arts Association at 660-665-0500 to make authorization. Signature will be required.

Kirksville Arts Association is a 501 (c) 3 and donations are eligible as a tax deduction as allowed by the law. Please consult your tax advisor.

**KIRKSVILLE**arts  
Association

Kirksville Arts Association  
1902 S. Baltimore, Suite 100.  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
(660) 665-0500 | [kirkvillearts.org](http://kirkvillearts.org)

Photo courtesy Jim McCarty

# Recognition of A Grand Lady



# CLARA STRAIGHT

## A WONDERFUL LIFE

Clara Straight has lead a very remarkable life. Born in 1919, her family moved to Yarrow when she was six weeks old. She began painting with shoe polish at age three, using the inside of a cereal box as canvas. Clara and her sister Ruth walked six miles to school. She graduated from Kirksville High School during the Depression and in 1941 graduated from Northeast Missouri Teachers College. Her first teaching job was at Moberly Junior High and Moberly Junior College. She went on to earn a Masters Degree at the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1945. Clara remained at the university as an instructor in the art department until 1948, when she was invited to teach in the Design Department at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. During sabbaticals, Clara attended Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, M.I.T., University of California, Berkley, Scripps College in Claremont, California and traveled to Europe, Mexico and Australia. In 1984, Clara retired from Cornell and returned to Yarrow to live with her brother, Paul in the same house where she had grown up “to start her second childhood.” She had always returned home over holidays and during the summers.

## A STRONG COMMUNITY

Clara’s landscapes of rural Missouri have brought beauty to our lives, but her spirit has brought even greater joy. One of the her greatest contributions is that people who never considered themselves to be a patron of the arts, own her paintings. The appeal of her work is far reaching. She has been a prolific painter and her works may be found in many private collections across the United States and overseas.

We are a group of friends, neighbors and admirers of Clara. We think this remarkable person deserves to be recognized. Kirksville Arts Association is currently raising funds for the Sue Ross Arts Center and are granting naming rights to donors making significant donations to the capital campaign. We would like the conference room on the mezzanine level to be named in honor of Clara Straight. The Arts Association owns two of Clara’s paintings, once owned by Sue Ross and donated by her husband. These paintings will be on display in the conference room.

## A GENEROUS GIFT

Our goal is to raise **\$50,000** by **Clara's 100th birthday on August 28, 2019**. We hope you will help us reach that goal. We will be hosting different fundraising events throughout the year and hope you will support this special campaign. In June 2019, in honor of Clara's 100th birthday, the Kirksville Arts Association will have an exhibit of Clara's private collection of her favorite works.

**We especially want to thank Clara for allowing us to have this special campaign.**

Thank you,

Larry Evans  
Nancy Belfield  
Ferrel Moots

Angela Schultz  
Carla Easley  
John Grossnickle