

The Print Club of New York, Inc.

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Latest News

SPRING 1996

President's Greeting

The Print Club of New York started the new season with several excellent and well attended events. A tour of the New York Public Library's Conservation Lab hosted by Director Marc Reeves proved so popular that a second tour had to be scheduled. Our Artists Showcase was held at the National Arts Club before the largest audience of any event sponsored by the Print Club. The audience was keenly interested in and responsive to the work of the eight artists who were presented that evening. Our most recent event was held at the Brooklyn Museum where Marilyn Kushner, Curator of Prints and Drawings, gave an informative lecture on German Expressionist prints.

It should be noted that there has been a substantial increase in attendance at these events by Print Club members and their families. The Membership Events Committee headed by Dr. Muriel Moss is planning a series of interesting programs for the Spring, and we hope to see an even greater attendance.

Our Membership Chairman, Glen Nelson, has reviewed the membership renewal forms and many of you who have volunteered for committees will be contacted shortly by committee chairpersons. The Board of Trustees appreciates your interest and welcomes your participation in Club activities.

Our 1995 print has been distributed to the membership. The print is a beautiful soft ground etching by the renowned artist April Gornik, entitled "Loire". It has been received with enthusiasm and praise and the Print Selection Committee and the Board of Trustees are gratified by your reception.

Dan Redmon has recently resigned from the Board of Trustees. On behalf of the Board and also from all of us who have worked with Dan on numerous Club activities over the past four years, we wish to thank him for his unstinting expenditure of time, energy and expertise. Dan is a founding member of the Club and its Board of Trustees. He served as Chairman of the Print Selection Committee and acted as Club Historian. Although Dan no longer has time to participate in Board activities, he remains an active Club member and we hope to call on him in regard to future events.

Elaine and I were guests of the Cleveland Print Club on their recent visit to the Metropolitan area in conjunction with the Fine Print Dealers Fair. Our Board would like to strengthen our relationships not only with the Cleveland Print Club but with all of the major Print Clubs and hopes that we can serve as host to a gathering before the next annual Print Fair.

Julian Hyman

In Memoriam

Karl Schrag 1912-1995

Modernist painter and printmaker Karl Schrag died on December 10, 1995, leaving behind a glorious body of work expressing his love of nature and humanity. Karl was a member of the Club and a close friend to many of us. He created the Club's 1993 presentation print and many of our members remember the inspiring talk he gave on his life and art at the Kraushaar Gallery where he had shown his work for forty years.

Karl, who came to America in 1938, was born in Germany and became a serious artist at a very early age. Some of the highlights of his career include his first retrospective in 1960, sponsored by the American Federation of Art at the Brooklyn Museum; a one-man exhibition at the National Collection of Fine Arts in the Smithsonian; and his association with Stanley William Hayter, eventually becoming Director of Hayter's famous Atelier 17. His works are in museums across America and a self-portrait hangs in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

Karl and his wife spent their summers in Deer Isle, Maine, where he painted the landscape and the sea by day and evening light. Winters were spent in a wonderful East Side brownstone where he did his own printing. His dealers, collectors of his work and his friends loved this gentle man. We will miss him.

Elaine Hyman

Print Club Events

March 27, 7:30 p.m.

A talk about Twentieth Century Japanese Prints with Sandra Andacht, university lecturer, author and editor of the Orientalia Journal at the Liederkrantz Club, 6 East 87th Street. The Club is available for dinner.

April 23, 6:00 p.m. 8:30

A tour and lecture by David Tunick, prominent print collector and dealer, at his landmark home and gallery, 12 East 81st. Space is limited and reservations are necessary **R.S.V.P. by calling 212-725-5406**.

May 8, 2p.m.

Tour of art collection and exhibition gallery of the Hebrew Home for the Aged at 5901 Palisade Ave., Riverdale, hosted by Curator, Susan Putterman. **R.S.V.P. by calling 201-567-0170**

A Little Known Museum in an Innovative Setting: The Art Collection of The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale

Set on a beautiful 19 acre site overlooking the Hudson River, The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale is a little known treasure house of 20th Century art. A member of the American Association of Museums, the Home's permanent collection includes contemporary and modern paintings, prints, sculpture, African and Oceanic primitive art, folk art and interactive installations. Its 3500 works are equivalent to that of a mid-sized museum and the collection has museum status. Under the direction of its curator Susan Putterman, an art historian and author, the collection is distributed throughout the buildings of Home and its outside sculpture garden so that art becomes an integral part of the residents' lives.

Background

The Hebrew Home for the aged was founded in Harlem in 1917 for homeless elderly people. Now with its main campus in Riverdale at 5901 Palisade Avenue, the Home is a non-profit, non-sectarian geriatric center serving 2000 elderly persons through its resources and community service programs. The Home is nationally known as a pioneer in the development of innovative geriatric services, especially the role of art in the life of its residents and their visitors. Its extensive collection began with the vision of Jacob Reingold over 40 years ago. Mr. Reingold, now vice chairman of the Home and formerly its executive vice president for many years, recognized that if residents of the Home could no longer visit museums, a museum could be brought to them to enrich their daily lives. He began the collection with blow ups of pictures of immigrant life by photographers like Jacob Riis and Lewis Hine. From this beginning has come an extensive art program featuring monthly Art at the Home lectures, rotating loan exhibitions by a variety of artists from Expressionists to realists working in various media, and interactive installations designed to stimulate participation by the residents and their families.

Permanent Collection

According to Ms. Putterman, the keynote of the permanent collection which has grown mainly through donation and bequests is its variety. In a beautiful ante room a sculpture by Chaim Gross is juxtaposed with a primitive African piece and a print by Ben Shahn. A unique collection of Dorothy Doughty porcelain birds, one of three such complete collections in the country, sets the mood of a room designed for meditation and poetry. Live birds and tropical fish share the walls with prints by Andy Warhol and Red Grooms. Everywhere is delight as residents and visitors make their way through corridors, lobbies, ante rooms, galleries and special spaces covered with paintings, prints, collages and photographs. Among them are the Erte alphabet series, lithographs by Picasso, prints by Calder, Warhol, Christo, Chagall, Vasarely, Will Barnet, and Raphael Soyer. A 1994 photolithograph series by William Wegman entitled "Cinderella" is a recent addition. A large wall relief by Frank Stella provides a dramatic entrance to a lobby. Contemporary works by Stephanie Brody Lederman and S. David Abrahams share a gallery wall. Sculptures by Chaim Gross, Anthony Padovano, Herbert Ferber, Menashe Kadishman and Milo Lazarevic are among those on display, many of them in the sculpture garden placed on the extensive lawns for residents and visitors pleasure.

Rotating Loan Exhibitions

In addition to the permanent collection, the Elma and Milton Gilbert Pavilion houses a gallery for rotating loan exhibitions overseen by the curator, Ms. Putterman. Over 12 exhibits are mounted yearly in this special gallery, and here, too, the keynote is variety. Recent exhibitions have featured a retrospective of the drawing and sculpture of Herbert Ferber whose large scale sculpture "Three Poles" is in the permanent collection; an exhibit of recent paintings and prints by Lee Sherry, including her new collection of 15 etchings describing a bird in flight and entitled "Mnemosyne Suite;" an exhibit of 40 Alice Austin photos from 1894-96 focusing on street types of New York, particularly European immigrants adjusting to the life of the city; an exhibition of paintings and lithographs by Ernest Fiene, a realist and chronicler of American urban and rural life in the 30's and 40's as well as exhibits of the work of contemporary artists, Stephanie Brody Lederman, Christopher Moser, a group show of artists associated with the Franklin/Adams avant garde gallery including James Barsness, Joan Brown, Roy DeForest and Lesley Dill, and the work of Russian emigre artist Alla Zinger. The current exhibition at the Home features self-portraits on canvas and paper and large-scale paintings by David Lund exploring the theme of artistic creativity. The next rotating exhibition in Feb.-March will show photographs of children by Katie Gray.

Interactive Installations

In keeping with the innovative vision of its founder Jacob Reingold that art would enrich not only the lives of the residents but also their families and the community, the most recent addition to the Home's collection is the Hudson River Garden Railroad. This installation recreates life along the Hudson River at the turn of the century. It was designed by landscape artist Paul Busse and has won the Gold Flora Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society of England. The construction is created from natural materials and is a multilevel work with river, waterfalls, two model G scale trains, a trolley running through the Palisades and seven model buildings, the size of dollhouses, including Lyndhurst, the former Jay Gould estate, Washington Irving's Sunnyside, a re-creation of the original building of the Hebrew Home and a prototypical New York Central railroad station. Along with an audio-visual recreation of a 42nd Street subway stop from times gone by, these interactive installations have been designed to delight the resident and provide a bond between them and their families as well as the many schoolchildren and others who visit the installations.

The Hudson River Garden Railroad, the exhibition gallery in the Elma and Milton Gilbert Pavilion as well as the permanent collection may be visited Sunday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For additional information on visiting the collection, call 549-8700, Ext. 330.

Note: Ms. Putterman has graciously agreed to conduct a tour of the collection and exhibition gallery for Print Club members at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8. Participants are limited to 25. Please call at 201-567-0170 if you are interested in the tour and wish to reserve a place.

Arlyne Lesser

FALL MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSERVATION LAB TOUR

As part of our Fall events program Marc Reeves, head of the paper conservation lab at the New York Public Library, led a tour through the Library's "high tech" facilities. Club members peered through a photo-documentation microscope, viewed the washing apparatus used in deacidifying paper, a suction table used in removing stains, a temperature-humidity chamber where an extremely fragile document was encased and a letter written by Edgar Allan Poe that had been encapsulated because ink had eaten through the extremely thin paper.

Numerous prints, drawings, and manuscripts as well as books in various stages of preservation were laid out for perusal. Included among those items were a box of notes and correspondence by Margaret Mitchell for Gone With the Wind, a liturgical volume with wax stains from four centuries of use, one of five hundred books from Lebanon with insect infestation and letters by Shelly and Mary Wollstonecraft which had been stored in vinyl.

The lab has been in existence approximately ten years. It is staffed by conservators and technicians who are responsible for all of the preservation needs of the Music, Dance & Theater Collections at Lincoln Center and the collections of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture as well as the central building on Fifth Avenue.

Also present was Duane Watson, Director of the Preservation Division, which includes the bindery, microfilm lab, facsimile-photocopying and digital imaging as well as the paper conservation lab. In speaking with Mr. Watson we were struck by the overwhelming backlog of work due to years of neglect prior to the establishment of the lab. Even though N.Y.P.L.'s preservation staff has been sharply reduced, with more positions being eliminated due to reduced federal and state funding, they continue to carry out their painstaking and meticulous work with the same high standards of quality.

Because of the enthusiasm expressed by those who attended and the frustration of those whom we had to turn away, we hope to repeat this event in the future.

SECOND ANNUAL ARTISTS SHOWCASE

A large and enthusiastic membership turnout marked The Print Club of New York's Artists Showcase on October 10 at the National Arts Club. During this event, PCNY members were introduced to the recent work of seven contemporary printmakers: Emily Trueblood, Richard Haas, Arkady Levov, Richard Pantell, Kathleen McKenzie, David Schor and Arthur Werger. Of particular note was the variety of techniques displayed on both slides and through portfolio presentations by participating artists who attended the event.

Emily Trueblood was represented by colored linocuts and woodcuts of urban scenes. Richard Pantell, described as a printmaker's printmaker, also displayed urban scenes in a variety of techniques including intaglio, etching, lithograph, color linocut

linocut and woodcut. Richard Haas was represented by a series of etchings and aquatints of magnificent buildings and architecture, both real and imaginary, while David Schor's work showed the influence of Renaissance printmakers on his subject matter, contemporary versions of the Dance of Death, and in his engraving technique of burring directly on the plate.

Two innovative techniques characterized the work of Arkady Levov and Kathleen McKenzie. Levov, who teaches platinum photography at Pratt and The New School, develops platinum prints that can be printed on finest quality art paper. Ms. McKenzie creates computer realized images and collages, as well as prints, in editions limited to two or three impressions. The final print artist shown was Arthur Werger whose play of light and lonely figures in etchings and lithographs are reminiscent of the works of Edward Hopper.

Slides shown of the work of Caroline Gallois, an artist who makes unusual use of salt in her paintings, was an opportunity to view a most creative artist's work.

The Club wishes to thank presenter members who chose the artists and discussed their work. It also wishes to thank Dr. Muriel Moss, Events Chairman, who arranged this delightful evening at the beautiful National Arts Club.

GERMAN EXPRESSIONISTS AT BROOKLYN MUSEUM

Print Club of New York members who attended the special viewing and lecture given by Marilyn Kushner, Curator of Prints & Drawings, of the show, "Expressionism to Neo-Expressionism: Twentieth Century German Prints," on December 10 were well rewarded.

Although most of the prints in the show date from the period after World War I, some were done as recently as the 1980s. Included are the works of George Baselitz, Max Beckmann, Ernest Ludwig Kirchner, Kathe Kolwitz, Franz Marc, Max Herman Pechstein and Sigmund Polke.

Ms. Kushner took us through the exhibit, describing the social and political feelings of the times, the hardships suffered by both the artists and the populace after World War I, the rise of Hitler and its effect on the artists and the reflection of all of this in their work. She also discussed the innovative printmaking techniques explored by the German artists and the modern movement after World War II to the present time.

We cannot thank Marilyn Kushner enough for her wonderful lecture. Her knowledge of the art and the artists and her ability to create great enjoyment in learning make her very special.

The exhibition was dedicated to Una Johnson who was the Curator of Prints & Drawings at the Brooklyn Museum from 1939 to 1969. Ms. Johnson was responsible for acquiring most of the German Expressionist prints in the exhibition.

NEWSLETTER TO ADD MEMBERS' COLUMN

The Print Club of New York Newsletter will publish members' requests for information about particular artists, prints, editions, exhibits, etc. In this way, members will be given an opportunity to share their knowledge, experience and expertise with other members. To place a request for information or to respond to a request, call Arlyne Lesser at (201) 567-0170, or write to The Print Club of New York, Inc., P.O. Box 4477, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

Members of the Club are invited to share their "discoveries" in the Newsletter. Please let us know if you come across an exciting small museum, a particularly interesting show, or an artist you wish to call to our attention.

Also, members are reminded that the Program Committee welcomes their recommendations for future Club events. Please call Dr. Muriel Moss at 212-213-8439 with your suggestions

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The Publication Committee is always searching for interesting articles to publish. Writings about artists, books, conservation of prints, museums, shows, little known facts, interviews with people involved in the art world etc. are but a few types of articles that can be contributed. You do not have to be a "great writer," as we can edit your work. It might be fun to see your name in print!

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CLASSIFIED ADS AVAILABLE

The Club offers a classified ads service. To place an ad in the next newsletter for a nominal fee,
call Arlyne Lesser at 201-567-0170

Note that the print club of New York has a phone hotline to meet the needs of its members. Information about programs, activities and how to volunteer for committees, etc. is now available. The number is: (212) 479-7915.

