



GREENWICH ARTS
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FALL 2001



(Above) Greenwich Arts Council gallery chair Nan Lvoff, contractor Greg Silver, architect Jay Haverson, and former executive director Betsy Jordan Hand compare the vision with the reality during a renovation meeting in late July, as the project neared completion.

(Below) Our new gallery has benefitted from the help of many generous supporters and friends. Among them, two important contributors are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bendheim for whom our new gallery is named in recognition of their enthusiastic and gracious support.

Mr. Robert Bendheim was Chairman and CEO of the Lowenstein Corporation, a major textile firm, and is President of the Leon Lowenstein Foundation, Inc. The broad philanthropic interests of the foundation include education, health and medical research, as well as the arts. The GAC is grateful for the Bendheims' invaluable encouragement and sponsorship in making our new gallery possible.

Mr. Bendheim, center, views gallery construction with, left and right, Gallery chair Nan Lvoff and Adele Teitell, GAC board president.



The Bendheim Gallery Opens

The dramatic new gallery renovation at the Greenwich Arts Center is the result of a collaborative vision. Jay and Carolyn Haverson (of Greenwich-based Haverson Architecture and Design) worked with Gallery chair Nan Lvoff, Arts Council Director Betsy Jordan Hand, and board members, especially Bill Watt and Adele Teitell, to define the needs and uses of the space. The second floor of the old Greenwich Town Hall has been revitalized in the process.

The new plan—dramatically different from the previous layout—has distinctive openings in existing walls to allow a more open feeling and to move the galleries to the front of the building. “We wanted to create a consistent, contemporary look, yet respect the heritage of the original building by restoring important details like the patterned ceramic floors and traditional woodwork,” said Jay Haverson. “I envisioned the look and feel of a New York City SoHo art gallery reclaimed from a turn-of-the-century building. New additions to the space are maple floors and a suspended galvanized lighting grid with clamp-mounted track fixtures that hang from ceilings painted charcoal grey. This treatment helps give the space an open loft feeling,” he added.

In the process of creating the gallery, the Arts Council office and the expanded Alliance Française center were moved toward the back of the building and a new resident artist studio was created. “In effect it was a series of logical shifts giving the most public places their proper positioning in relation to the main entry stair,” said Haverson.

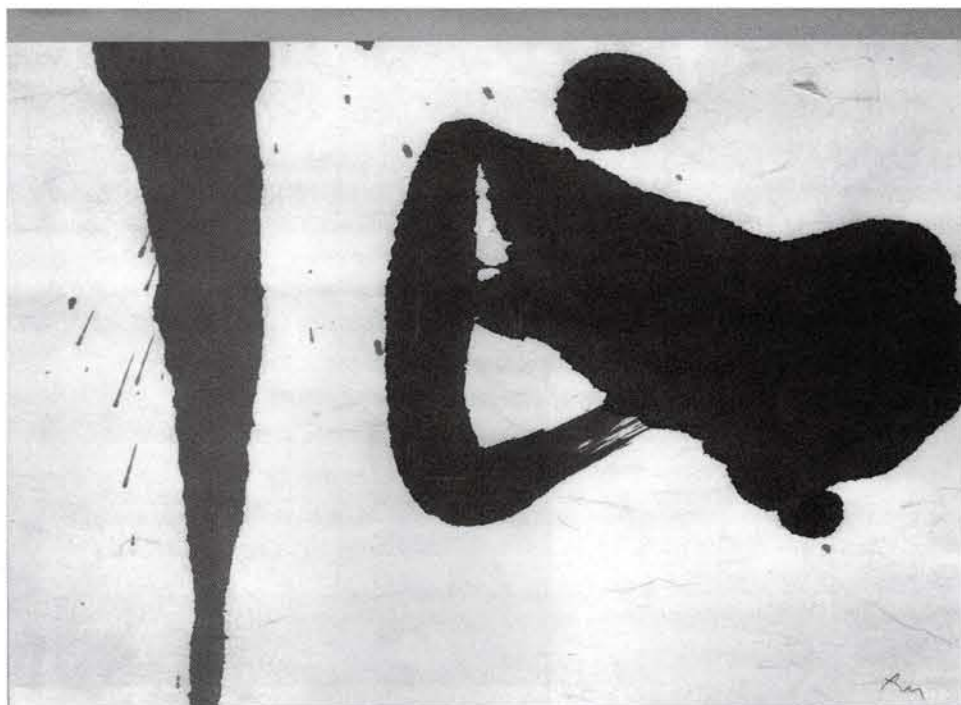
Three new exhibit halls are the centerpieces of the project, with the capacity to display large works of art. Flooded by natural light and with 12-foot-high ceilings, the galleries offer a commanding sense of place. The exhibit spaces are located around the perimeter of the building and relate to the street scene on Greenwich Avenue. The flexible display system was designed with movable panels on wheels that can be configured to make optimum use of the gallery space, including the accommodation of large works of art. The lighting system was technically upgraded to support the displays of art, and secured access was provided so that the gallery can be closed and protected during closing hours. According to Haverson, the renovation was also an important opportunity to bring the project into compliance with fire codes required by the Town of Greenwich.

“We are delighted to have played a role in reinventing the GAC space,” said Haverson. “It will be a great new amenity for the Town, and a place where upcoming artists can have a greater forum to exhibit their work.”

FREE Motherwell Lecture Oct. 11

In conjunction with the opening exhibition, David Rosand will speak about Motherwell at a free lecture, “Imprinting the Self,” on Thursday, October 11 at 7:30 pm. Mr. Rosand is the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History at Columbia University and the editor of *Robert Motherwell on Paper*, published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

Motherwell was an internationally acclaimed abstract expressionist who lived in Greenwich. Thirty-eight prints by Motherwell—part of his estate from the Dedalus Foundation in New York City—will be on sale and include a 30% donation to the Arts Council, helping to complete funding for the Gallery.



Robert Motherwell on Paper

Edited by David Rosand

Opening exhibit: **Motherwell on Paper: Oct. 4—Nov. 3**