

1928 - 2018

90 Artful Years

Flinn Gallery Celebrates a Major Milestone

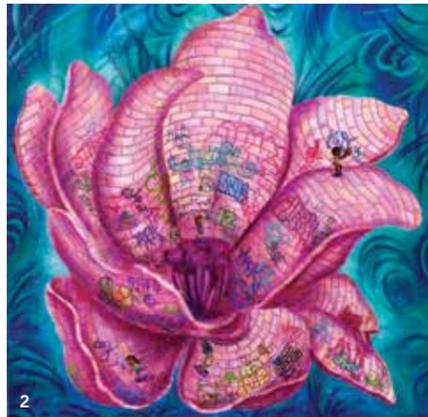
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THE FLINN GALLERY, located on the 2nd floor of the Greenwich Library, is one of the town's most beloved and impressive institutions. This 2018-19 season the gallery celebrates 90 years of bringing exceptional art experiences to the community.

The 90th anniversary season launches with *Looking Forward, Looking Back*, which opens September 6th and runs through October 17th. The exhibit features contemporary interpretations of famous artists and prior periods of art, emphasizing the importance of the artist's conversation with history, and setting the tone for a run of six shows that take a contemporary look at traditional themes. These include: *All Together* (October 25-December 5, 2018); *Forces of Nature* (December 13, 2018 – January 23, 2019); *Fluid Terrain* (January 31 – March 13, 2019); *Spaces of Uncertainty* (March 21- April 30, 2019); and *Time and Place: Works on Paper* (May 9 - June 19).

To commemorate this milestone year, the non-profit art gallery will present an array of special programs and events over the course



of the 2018-19 season. A public lecture series will launch on Wednesday, October 10th in the Cole Auditorium, co-sponsored by the Flinn Gallery and the Greenwich Library. Heather Cotter from The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) will speak in conjunction with the MoMA exhibition, *The Long Run*. Ms. Cotter serves as a lecturer at MoMA and Dia: Beacon. Additional lectures will take place: noted British artist and filmmaker Brian Catling on April 10th and Noah Kupferman, Program Director of Art, Law and Business at Christie's Education Institute on May 15th.

An Illustrious History

Renowned in art circles, the Greenwich community has long respected and supported artistic endeavors, from the turn-of-the-century Cos Cob artists' colony, to local exhibitions sponsored by Robert Moffat Bruce in his home, now the Bruce Museum. The Flinn Gallery has earned its reputation as a highly desired exhibition destination for artists throughout the tri-state region and



on a global level. Boasting 13' ceilings, the 2,000sf area and flexible wall system allow transformation of the space to accommodate the diverse conceptual and display needs of six annual art shows.

The pantheon of notable artists who have shown at the Flinn over the decades includes: Milton Avery, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Roz Chast, Dale Chihuly, Jim Henson, Robert Motherwell, Robert Rauschenberg and set designer Tony Walton. In addition, the gallery has shown works from noted private collections, including the Hirshhorn, Walter Bareiss, and Alan Stone.

Since its inception the gallery has been a completely volunteer-run enterprise; no small feat given the scale and scope of its extraordinary achievements and impact over nine decades. A dynamic and talented committee of approximately 60 women members drives selections, curation and installation of all exhibits, as well as design, marketing and event management. "The Flinn Curators are bringing free shows to a public library's community that are comparable to a cultural experience behind the doors of a recognized private gallery. The Friends are happy to lend support!", said Sharon S. Fortenbaugh, Chairman of the Friends of the Greenwich Library Board.



Flinn committee member Jane Hotchkiss, who joined the Flinn in 1950 and has curated numerous shows over the years, shares her perspective: "We evolved from presenting existing collections or museum curated shows to seeking out new artists, following the leads and recommendations of local collectors and visiting studios. The "Fresh Paint" show was where we introduced new talent that then went on to become more established artists."

Eclectic in its choice of art and artists both established and emerging, the Flinn Gallery has featured works ranging from wearable art, Lego sculpture, art through the eyes of a child, sound sculptures and the Muppets, to classic and contemporary paintings; and media from oil painting to encaustic, fiber, paper and glass.

The Flinn Gallery is sponsored by the Friends of the Greenwich Library. All proceeds from art sales contribute to the library's public

programs including: Children's programs, the Oral History Project and the Peterson Concert Series. Greenwich Library Director, Barbara Ormerod-Glynn adds, "In a 2015 library patron survey, 28% of total respondents said they had visited the Flinn Gallery. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the passionate and dedicated volunteers through whose efforts art exhibits and programs have uplifted and enriched the lives of local residents."

Decade Highlights

20s: In 1928, librarian Isabelle Hurlbutt secured space and funding for a group of local professional artists (Greenwich Society of Artists) to establish a gallery in the original Greenwich Library on Greenwich Avenue, the current site of Saks Fifth Avenue.

30s: *Rembrandt / Earliest Known Prints to Present Time: Engravings and Etchings* (1934)

40s: During WWII, exhibitions were still held, and the gallery was also used for civil defense, first aid training and as a Victory Garden information center.

50s: *Greenwich Collects* - an exhibition of such luminaries as: Jean Arp, Rene Magritte, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollack and Diego Rivera (1956).

60s: In 1960, the library moved to its present location on West Putnam Avenue, the former site of the Franklin Simon women's apparel store and was named the Hurlbutt Gallery, in honor of its visionary founder, Isabelle Hurlbutt.

70s: *20th Century Art from the Vassar College Collection*, including work by: Milton Avery, Willem de Kooning, Marsden Hartley and Mark Rothko (1972).

80s: *Connecticut and American Impressionism: The Cos Cob Clapboard School* - the first major exhibit to focus on the Cos Cob art colony, including works by D. Putnam Brinley, Childe Hassam, Elmer L. MacRae, Leonard Ochtman, Henry Ward Ranger, John Henry Twachtman, and Julian Alden Weir (1980).

90s: *Jim Henson: The Greenwich Years - 1964-1971*, which broke all attendance records up until that time (1994).

In 1999 the library was re-designed by architect Cesar Pelli. The state-of-the art gallery moved to its current location on the 2nd floor of the Peterson Wing and renamed the Flinn Gallery in honor of Stephanie and Lawrence Flinn. The inaugural exhibit was *Molly and Walter Bareiss - Sixty Years of Collecting*.

2000s: *Nuevo Arte de Cuba*, including noted Cuban artists Nelson Domínguez, Roberto Fabelo, Manuel Mendive and Pedro Pablo Oliva (2001).

2010s: Notable recent exhibits: Akinori Matsumoto: *Sound Sculptures* (2015); *Corrugated World: The Art of James Grashow* (2017); *Hazardous Beauty* (2018); and *Beyond Street Art* (2018) offered breakthrough content and generated record-breaking attendance. □

For further information on the Flinn Gallery and the 2018-19 show season, please visit the gallery website at www.flinngallery.com.