

Wedgwood Society Lecture On Lessoré

WESTON, MASS. - The Wedgwood Society of Boston will hold its fifth lecture of the season on Sunday, April 5, at 2:30 pm, at Norumbega Point, 99 Norumbega Road.

The featured speaker will be Judith Applegate, professor and author, who will present "Some Thoughts on Lessoré."

Emile Lessoré was a French artist employed by the Wedgwood firm in the middle to late Nineteenth Century. Wedgwood wares designed by Lessoré are rare and command

top prices today. Applegate will feature Lessoré's Wedgwood masterpiece and will provide an overview of the careers of both he and Josiah Wedgwood. Attendees are encouraged to bring Lessoré examples for discussion.

Applegate has taught at Bard and Cooper-Hewitt, and was a curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln.

For information, 603/329-4447.

Farmington Canal Bus Tour April 18

PLAINVILLE, CONN. - A Farmington Canal bus Tour is planned for Saturday, April 18, presented by the Historic Sites of Connecticut's Farmington Valley, a non-profit consortium of museums and historic sites.

The day-long trip will include several canal sites; it will start at Lock 12 in Cheshire. Three museums with canal connections will also be visited. The program will end

late in the afternoon on the Massachusetts border.

Narrators will be Ruth Hummel, president of the Plainville Historical Society, who will discuss local histories as the trip progresses. Dr. Carl Walter will present the engineering features and facts on the Farmington Canal.

Cost is \$40. For reservations and information, 860/653-9713 (between 1-4 pm).

21st ABC Antiques Show March 29

GUILFORD, CONN. - The 21st annual ABC Antiques Show will be Saturday, March 28, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, March 29, 11 am to 4 pm at the Adams Middle School, Route 77.

The show benefits A Better Chance Program, founded in 1963, a national scholarship organization offering increased opportunities for minority students to attend high schools in various locations across the United States.

Selected exhibitors will bring antiques in a wide price range for the beginning or advanced collector.

Admission is \$3.50. For information, 203/457-0368.

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Theresa Bernstein Celebrated

NEW YORK CITY - On February 25, American Modernist Theresa Bernstein attended her 70-year retrospective at Joan Whalen Fine Art. In a jampacked gallery, fans applauded this extraordinary artist as she entered, waving and blowing kisses to the crowd.

With cameras flashing, Bernstein gave a sketching demonstration, using six-year-old Alexandra Marie Valencia as her model. The exhibition continues through Saturday, April 18.

Among the many guests were Parks and Recreation Commissioner Henry J. Stern, and Michael Rabin, deputy commissioner of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's Depart-



Bernstein sketches Alexandra Marie Valencia, who attended the opening with her grandfather.

108-Year-Old Artist Attends Whalen Retrospective

ment for the Aging, who greeted gallery guests and read a letter from the mayor: "On behalf of the residents of New York City I proudly salute you for your dedication and faithful commitment to New York Realism. Throughout this century your work has exhibited an extraordinary humanness that appropriately depicts the daily life of New Yorkers ... and at the same time chronicles life in New York City throughout the past 70 years."

Joan Whalen also read letters from President Bill Clinton, extending his warmest congratulations, and from Joanne Kuebler, executive director of The Art Students League of New York.

When asked the secret of her longevity, Bernstein replied: "I don't count."

Bernstein, among other realists in this century, has been somewhat overshadowed by the art world's focus on more abstract artists. Now, concurrently with the Whalen exhibition, she is receiving public and critical attention as part of a two-year traveling exhibition: "The Philadelphia Ten: A Women's Artist Group 1917-1945," which opened at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia on January 23. The group was formed on February 17, 1917 in response to



M. Rabin, Deputy Commissioner of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's Department for the Aging, with Joan Whalen, gallery director.

the male-dominated The Eight, later called the Ashcan School.

Born in Philadelphia in 1890, Bernstein showed early talent and interest in art. At the age of 17, she won a Board of Education scholarship to attend the Philadelphia School of Design for Women, now Moore College of Art. She enrolled in the four-year Normal Art Course for training teachers in 1907, studying under Elliott Daingerfield, Daniel Garber, Harriet Sartain, Henry B. Snell and Samuel Murray.

Later, she studied with William Merritt Chase at the Art Students League in New York City. One of her earliest works, "Daniel Garber's Studio" (1910), is included in this retrospective. In the 1920s, along with John Sloan, she helped form the Society of Independent Artists.

Adhering to Robert Henri's philosophy that "art cannot be separated from life," Bernstein, a superb colorist, has chronicled decades of American's urban and seaside life

with a passionate intensity and energy of brushwork - her own expressive realism. Last summer, her friend Jerry Jackson, director of Smith-Girard, asked Bernstein if she considered herself an expressionist painter. She replied, "I never thought of myself as a painter. I was someone trying to paint. In the 1920s, [art] work was going up the abstract ladder but I kept my feet on the ground. I believe art is human."

Bernstein has captured seven decades of Americans coping with economic uncertainty, "Waiting Room - Employment Office," 1917; celebrating religious rituals, "The Seder," circa 1940; seaside play, "Good Harbor Beach," 1960; or marching in parades, "Four Freedoms Parade, July 4, 1944."

Since her first solo exhibition at the Milch Gallery, New York City in 1919, Bernstein has enjoyed many exhibitions and is represented in the permanent collections of more than a dozen museums in the United States. She has established herself as a uniquely American realist - a genre painter whose work spans the Twentieth Century.

Joan Whalen Fine Arts is in the New York Gallery Building, 24 West 57th Street, Suite 507, and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. For information 212/397-9700.

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