

## Art Brightens the Children's Advocacy Center

The Art Connection and the Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County have worked together to transform the bare walls of the space the Center shares with the Suffolk County District Attorney into a welcoming environment for children and their families.

**Kara O'Handley**, administrative coordinator for the Children's Advocacy Center, said, "We truly believe in art's capacity to enrich and transform people's lives, and the art donated by The Art Connection will provide hundreds of families with an extraordinary opportunity to view original works. The art will also benefit our staff who commit their lives to child welfare."

The Art Connection has facilitated the donation of twelve original works of art from six Boston artists to the Children's Advocacy Center in downtown Boston.

These donated works will help the office become a warm setting for visitors.

Artists **Martha Bradford, Irma Cerese, Judith Liberman, Howard Lizotte, Judith Silverstein** and **Maria Termini** donated their art to the Center through The Art Connection.

**Howard Lizotte** installed his mixed-media work, "Ride the Red Line," recently, and O'Handley said it creates a sense of fun in the room, making the space more child-friendly. "The children feel the Red Line is going right through the room. It adds a nice dimension," she said.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County is an interagency partnership that coordinates investi-

gations and assessments of cases involving concerns of child abuse or child witnesses to violence. The Center facilitates cooperation between involved agencies, and provides a coordinated response to child victims to minimize the trauma to him or her.

—Dawn Davis, intern

**Children's Advocacy Center administrative coordinator, Kara O'Handley, joins artist Howard Lizotte below his creation, "Ride the Red Line," a recent installation at CAC.**



**At a reception for new board members and benefactors, The Art Connection's Executive Director, Jim McDonald, presented founder and board member, Fay Chandler, with a disposable sculpture, celebrating The Art Connection's 1000th placement of art, a milestone reached at the end of October.**

## Community Outreach through The Art Connection

Over the past six months, The Art Connection has visited more than twenty nonprofit agencies and interviewed many more, facilitating the donation of more than 200 works of art. These agencies specialize in services from job training, providing shelter and food for homeless women, to community healthcare, healthcare for the elderly, housing for teens, and much more.

The staff and clients of these agencies are proud recipients of paintings, sculpture, ceramics, and mixed-media work by Boston area artists (and a new contributing artist from London!).

We salute Boston Community Capital (Roxbury), Communities for People (Somerville), Elis Memorial & Eldredge House, Inc. (Boston), Ethos (Jamaica Plain), Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development (Lynn), Project Hope (Dorchester), Shattuck Shelter (Jamaica Plain), South Boston Behavioral Health Program (S. Boston), The Medical Foundation (Boston), and Women's Lunch Place (Boston).





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The Art Connection, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, seeks to enrich and educate underserved communities by expanding public access to original works of art. Since many public and nonprofit institutions have no resources with which to acquire original art, and because artists often have unsold work, The Art Connection aims to increase the flow of art from the artists to those who would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience art in their lives.

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 We welcome your contributions and comments.  
 Please call or send email to artinfo@art2life.org.



## Report from the Executive Director

Just one year ago we were reporting on the placement of our 500th piece of art in a nonprofit agency. Now we've doubled that figure—1000 works of art donated to nonprofit agencies around Boston! Much has changed in a year. Much has changed in a few months. But the importance of having access to art in our lives has, if anything, increased as a result of the events of September 11. Art helps us to reflect on what happens around us, gives us perspective, provides solace. Art can be escape, but art encourages us to think and provides a channel for us to feel. Art is serious, and art is fun.

And the art we bring to life around Boston— in agencies that provide shelter and food for homeless men and women, community healthcare, elderly services, housing for teens, and much more—helps to heal, inspire, stimulate dialogue, and enrich the lives of men, women, and children. We couldn't do this without you.

And with your help, we're moving forward at The Art Connection. Our Project 5/500, now completed, revealed much. As an assessment of our art placement program, it will inform our strategic planning this winter. As an overall examination of The Art Connection, it offered ample proof for celebration. The Art Connection makes a difference, and reaches thousands. And the work we do in placing art throughout the Boston community has a cumulative effect. We're reaching thousands more people each year, and we're still touching thousands of lives with the work we did in each of our first five years of bringing art to life!

Board member **Lydia Walshin**, who spearheaded the project, has now moved on to work with a whole list of other arts and non-profit enterprises where she, too, will make a difference. Along with Lydia, The Art Connection will miss **Cynthia Berg**, who helped to steer The Art Connection through its six years history, and the wisdom of Board members **David Murphy** and **Fredericka Stevenson**.

Anticipating the departure of a few of our Board, our prime focus over the summer was in the area of Board development. We're really happy to report that we've attracted seven exceptional new members to our Board: **Alyce Adams**, Assistant Professor, Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, Harvard Medical School; **Linda George**, Associate Director, Boston Senior Home Care; **Henry Goodrow**, Director of External Affairs, Codman Sq. Neighborhood Center; **Anna Faith Jones**, former President of The Boston Foundation; **Anne Malone**, Vice President, Development & External Affairs, Pine Street Inn; **Susan Rodgerson**, Executive and Artistic Director, Artists for Humanity; and Accountant **Michael Tucci**, with Robert Ercolini & Company. Kudos to board member **Dale Mitchell**, Executive Director of Ethos, for overseeing the process.

I, too, was recruited over the summer, and I owe many thanks to **Maria Markham**, my predecessor, for doing so much to shape The Art Connection's program and ensure a smooth transition. Cheers, Maria!

It hasn't taken long to learn that The Art Connection has many passionate advocates, from Board members, benefactors, donors, and cultural organizations like Boston's Office of Cultural Affairs and The Boston Foundation, to the many talented artists who share their creative work. It also hasn't taken long for the word to get out to the nonprofit community. Requests for donated art are coming in at a staggering rate, and we're trying to catch our breath and determine how to keep pace. We're working hard, and strategically, to reach out to more artists, and we're launching our annual appeal this month to ensure that we continue to "bring art to life." We hope you, too, will continue to be a part The Art Connection.

**Jim McDonald**, executive director

### The Art Connection Seeks a Volunteer Coordinator

If you love art and believe in our mission, we'd like to talk with you about the opportunity to work with The Art Connection. We're looking for an arts advocate with: two days a week free, experience teaching or training, working with computer systems, and interest in visiting nonprofit agencies in the greater Boston area. If you're interested in finding out more about this position, please call Jim McDonald at 617.338.7668.



## Art —Outdoors and In—at Cambridge's On The Rise



Laura Lambert, from *On The Rise*, nestled inside the opening to Andy Zimmermann's metal sculpture, "Big Bang," which graces the Cambridge agency's outdoor garden area.

Over the summer, The Art Connection visited On The Rise in Cambridge, to talk with their staff about bringing donated art into the agency. In early November we returned to view the art on the premises and check up on the placement process. **Laura Lambert** provided an after-hours tour, and recalled meeting the artists who had contributed work to the agency. "We'd selected two pieces by **Caroline Dinunzio**. When I went to meet her and pick up her work, we talked, and she ended up contributing two more pieces. And in addition to her incredible art, she also donated the leather chair in our living room."

On The Rise's mission is to support the initiative and strength of women living in crisis or homelessness.

According to Lambert, "In a physically and psychologically safe environment, we build the relationships and provide the tools that each woman needs to rise to her potential. In order to stay true to our mission, it is essential that our program provide space that is safe and welcoming to women who come to us." In 2000, On The Rise moved to their pres-

### From On The Rise's application to The Art Connection

"What would be especially significant about having a work of art donated from the original artist through The Art Connection would be the sense of community it fosters. One of our main objectives at On The Rise is to help women transition from surviving on the streets to to living in the community. When women know there is a larger community outside of On The Rise that appreciates their worth as human beings and wants them to experience the culture and opportunities the area has to offer, the support we offer is strengthened. That is a very powerful message."

— **Laura Lambert, Director of Development & Communications**

ent location, a beautiful Victorian house in Cambridge, between Central and Inman Squares. Lambert added, "Women find tremendous dignity in walking the short distance from the red line and entering an actual home that they can call their own."

Artists who have contributed work to On The Rise include: **Susan Jane Belton, Irma Cerese, Ruth Ginsberg-Place, Cynthia Nartonis, Judith Liberman, Leslie Miller, Jo Ann Rothschild, Cora Roth, Anne Silber,** and **Andy Zimmermann**, whose metal sculpture, "Big Bang," resides in the fenced in garden area just outside the house.

## David Shapiro, Sculptor and Painter

**"I get great satisfaction out of seeing my work in places where people can enjoy it. If you are an artist and you have a body of work you'd like to contribute and place somewhere, then The Art Connection is the place for you... The Art Connection makes the contacts and then follows through on all the details."**

—Artist David Shapiro  
(2000, interview with the artist)

David Shapiro, an abstract sculptor who gave up a career in electronics to devote his life to his art, died this past June. He was born in Utica, New York, and served as a tailgunner aboard B-17 bombers during World War II. While stationed in England, he would embellish letters home to his future wife, Esther Tilis, with drawings. Three days after his return from the war, they married and his wife became an early champion of his art talents.

Mr. Shapiro was an engineer at Elecom Corp. in Brooklyn. He later worked at Honeywell, where he earned his first patent, and then RCA. He co-founded companies that manufactured electronic calculators and minicomputers for electronic alarm systems

before devoting himself full time to his art.

He began exhibiting his paintings in 1971. After taking a welding course, he began creating abstract metal sculptures which he called "three-dimensional drawings." In 1998, he won the sculpture prize at the Cambridge Art Association's national award show. He was a co-founder of Artists West Studios in Waltham and Brickbottom Studios in Somerville.

He first learned about The Art Connection from Fay Chandler. Over the years he has contributed three welded steel sculptures and five paintings to nonprofits in the Boston area.



## Project 5/500 Goes to Press!

One year ago, The Art Connection founder, Fay Chandler, along with Board members Lydia Walshin and Cynthia Berg, undertook a project, to collect stories of how art has affected the lives of the clients of public and nonprofit agencies we serve. The project, 5/500, so named for the 500 works of art that were placed in the first five years, was also designed to identify operational challenges, which the Board has already begun to address, and this research will help us make critical strategic planning decisions for The Art Connection's next five years.

Thirty agencies were visited and a great

many stories were told. Project 5/500 celebrates the many collaborations undertaken by community agencies and artists to transform lives through the sharing of original works of art. Project 5/500 confirms that The Art Connection's mission—democratizing access to original works of art—and our art donation program have enriched the lives of thousands of people.

We're hoping that the booklet will be printed before the holidays. If you would like a copy, please write to us or call 617.338.7668. Talented and generous artists, volunteers, benefactors and donors are important participants in this collaboration to bring art to life. Without their dedication

and support, we could not do this work, and we are grateful to each of them.

**Amanda Hurd**, Chair,  
The Art Connection

**"When I walk into a room I've never ever been into, I look around and see what's in it. If there's lots of art I feel wanted. If there isn't, I feel lonely,"**

--a fifth grade student, Paige Academy, from the **Project 5/500**

## Many Thanks to our Artists !

The Art Connection is grateful to the artists and collectors who have donated work over the past year. Many thanks to you all!

Sandra Aizley, Julie Baer, Susan Jane Belton, Prilla Smith Brackett, Martha Jane Bradford, Irma Cerese, Fay Chandler, Allan Rohan Crite, Caroline Dinunzio, Donna Dodson, Phyllis Ewen, Ruth Ginsberg-Place, Berta Golahny, Graham and Ann Gund, John Guthrie, Shlomith Haber-Schaim, Sabina Haque, Robert Harding, Suzanne Hodes, Wendy Ingram, Anne Kirchheimer, Barbara Kirchheimer, Judith Liberman, Howard Lizotte, Charles Mansbach, Cynthia Maurice, Kathleen McCue, Leslie Miller, Maud Morgan, Eva Moseley, Carolyn

**Present Series #21, oil on canvas, by Vicki Kocher Paret, donated to Jewish Vocation Services in 2000**

Muskat, Cynthia Nartonis, Vicki Kocher Paret, Ellen Rich, Cora Roth, Jo Ann Rothschild, Eleanor Rubin, Anne Silber, Judith Silverstein, Nancy Simonds, Durlabh Singh, Maria Termini, Dinoel Veerdna, Debra Weisberg, and Andy Zimmermann.

**"It was great. There were these big, burly, veterans, all 'oohing' and 'aahing' over Anne Silber's serigraphs of creamers."**

--**Jennifer Erbe**, Program Coordinator, The Art Connection, describing her experience presenting the artists' slide portfolio at the Veteran's Northeast Outreach Center.



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### Bringing Art to Life

David Shapiro's Legacy  
The Elevated Red Line?!

"Big Bang" in Cambridge  
Project 5/500 and onward...

**Expanding public access to art**