

# I'M MOVING: SO IS MY MANHOLE ART

By Bobbi Mastrangelo

*St. James artist Bobbi Mastrangelo is moving to Port Jefferson. We are sorry to see her go. The following is an account of where her art will be going from here.*

What to do with all my art works? That was the biggest problem to solve in moving to a town house with a smaller studio. The solution to the problem was like an artist's dream come true. Museum Acquisition! Though it took time and paper work for art curators' selections and committee approvals, the whole process became an exciting adventure.

First of all, Doug Schmidt of BOCES Environmental Center took a water supply cover for an educational visual learning aid. Then CeCe Nolls, Curator at The Hecksher Museum chose a print of a John Potente Grate because it was so typically Long island. Jeanette Salivito of The American Vision Art Institute thought "Interlude," a construction from my early art-music period, would compliment a vision for their cultural arts center in Bay Shore.



**MOVING MASTRANGELO'S ART- (L.to R.) Ray Mc Donald, artist Bobbi Mastrangelo and Bruce Crockett, Baltimore Public Works, Graphic Department Director.**

*Photo by Pat Colombraro*

The Baltimore Public Works Museum, hoping to expand their museum's focus, sent a staff of four to view the acquisition and loan possibilities. Vanessa Pyatt, their Director, couldn't believe how well my art related to their public works theme.

Bruce Crockett, Director of Public

Works Graphics Department, smiled as he viewed the large Con Ed Installation and manhole cover art works around him. "I died and went to Heaven!" he exclaimed.

The Baltimore Team immediately rented a 14-foot truck. We proceeded to load sculptures, a sound activated assemblage, prints, printing blocks, manhole fashions, painted road cones, signed hard hats, my scrapbooks and all manner of memorabilia related to manhole art. And all this was happening to me, an artist while I was still alive. It was a day to remember!

Director, Barbara Hayward, acquired four works for the permanent collection of The New York City Fire Museum. They included a drawing of a fire hydrant, a photo of a fire hydrant and water valve installation and two prints of water covers. The larger print "Water Service" actually has the written details of a St. James Water District Mark Out. It incorporated the water service road markings made by John Mayleas and Mario Palmieri, 1985 employees.

The Islip Art Museum now has the largest collection of my works on Long Island. Cathy Valenza chose nine prints and one sculpture relief, "Erie Water" to represent the "Grate Works."

And how do I feel now that so many works have gone to other places? I'm excited and motivated to create new works after I have settled in my new studio.



**ISLIP ART MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS — (L. to R.) Cathy Valenza, Islip Art Museum Curator, artist Bobbi Mastrangelo holding a print of "Water, Water, Everywhere" and her former printmaking instructor, professional artist: Gail Cohen Edelman.**

*Photo by Al Mastrangelo*

## IN THE NEWS

Our Town \* October 1995

Published by Graphics Du Jour, Ltd. St. James NY 11780