

## A View of One's Own

by Bobbi Mastrangelo of St. James

With the arrival of the Fine Arts Moving truck, I felt a tinge of excitement. The two young men eyed the wall relief they were to transport. "It sure looks heavy!" they exclaimed as they gazed at the Manhattan street segment containing a manhole cover. Inwardly I smiled, thinking how the realistic renderings of my work had fooled so many. Years ago a viewer of this same piece, "Borough of Manhattan" had stated: "That artist ought to be arrested for stealing a manhole cover."

With surprising ease, they lifted my sculpture relief from the wall. As they deftly created a form-fitting cardboard base with protective wrappings and covered the work, a wave of nostalgia swept over me. I was going to miss this work! In the early 80's my own view of manhole covers in street scapes was an unusual theme. But just this past summer Mimi Melnick wrote to tell me about the advance press her *Manhole Covers* book would receive in *The New York Times Magazine*. This fall friends sent me the *New York Times Magazine* clippings of Steven Lowry and Pascal Giraudon's manhole art created with ingenuity and heavy duty equipment at New York Street sites. Recently my "Grate Works" had been featured at the New York Hall of Science; complementing their theme on the city's important infrastructure.

Soon the truck departed and my manhole art was en route to its final destination in the Permanent Collection of the National Association of Women Artists. "Borough of Manhattan" would be in the company of works by famous artists including impressionist Mary Cassatt, Louise Nevelson, Alice Neal and Judy Chicago. The largest selection of the exhibition includes artworks created by 60 selected artists



Bobbi Mastrangelo with her sculpture relief "Borough of Manhattan." The 36"x48"x3" wall relief has been chosen for the Permanent Collection of the National Association of Women Artists.

within the past 30 years. My husband Al and I are looking forward to viewing the art collection in its beautiful museum setting at the invitational reception.

"A View of One's Own," the inaugural exhibition of the National Association of Women Artists will be open to the public from November 6 through March 26, 1995 at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, on the Rutgers University Campus in New Brunswick, NJ. Exhibition hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 12 noon to 5 p.m. For further information call the museum at 1-908-932-7237.

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