



Explore • Experience • Engage

Contact: Rachel Somma
Communication Coordinator
75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, NY 10301
P: 718-483-7117
Email: RSomma@StatenIslandMuseum.org

For Immediate Release

Constructions of Conscience: The Social Art of Susan Grabel

Celebrate its opening with a reception at the Staten Island Museum

Event Date: Sunday, January 29, 2012 Opening Reception

Time: 1:00pm– 4:00pm

Location: Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place, SI, NY 10301

Admission: \$5/ Free for Museum Members

(Staten Island, NY – January 2012) The **Staten Island Museum** is happy to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, **Constructions of Conscience: The Social Art of Susan Grabel**. This retrospective exhibition surveying 40 years of the artist's sculpture and prints will be ushered in with an opening reception on Sunday, January 29, 2012 at the Staten Island Museum at 75 Stuyvesant Place, 1-4pm. Grabel's serial works deal with the human dimensions of social, cultural and political issues, such as homelessness, alienation, and the image of the aging woman's body. Her art is an attempt to face things that we encounter daily, but often refuse to acknowledge. The exhibition will run through May 28, 2012.

About the Artist:

Over the last 40 years artist Susan Grabel has articulated her political and social views and concerns through her art. Her figurative clay constructions, cast paper works and prints all bear her personal mark; rough-hewn and grounded, the gritty earth bodies and social themes tell us about ourselves.

Influenced by her generation of 1960's activism and her family's humanist values, Grabel has made a career of activism and storytelling, with a goal of increasing awareness of social issues and ultimately, compassion.

Ms. Grabel grew up in Brooklyn, NY. Possessing talent in mathematics and a keen interest in the humanities, she was regularly challenged to choose between two divergent directions. Her artistic training began at the Brooklyn Museum Art School, where she took classes in ceramics and sculpture, while simultaneously finishing a B.A. in English Literature at Brooklyn College. Grabel's training in the clay studio led her to enroll in the California School of Arts & Crafts. Eventually, she recalls

"I took a day job as an actuarial assistant, and later a computer programmer, allowing my evenings to be filled with art classes; the draw of the sculpture studio was always foremost in my mind."

Susan Grabel has been a presence on Staten Island since 1970 and in the greater artistic community of New York. As President of the New York City Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art, a national organization, she was instrumental in the organization of *In Three Dimensions: Women Sculptors of the '90s*, a national survey exhibition held in 1995 at the Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center. She is also a founding member and organizer of exhibitions for the

Staten Island Creative Community. The Staten Island Museum welcomes the opportunity to provide a spotlight on Grabel's own career as a creative artist, a person who has done so much to help turn the spotlight on others.

Robert Bunkin, Art Curator
Diane Matyas, Director of Exhibitions and Programs
Staten Island Museum

Exhibit related programs at the Staten Island Museum

Affinities Selection: From the Permanent Collection

Affinities is a new program which brings to light art works from the Museum's collection as chosen by exhibiting artists. Susan Grabel has selected works with an eye toward style, subject matter, intention or expression relative to her own work. Affinities gives the visitor an opportunity to see highlights from the Museum's collections that are rarely on display, and to get a deeper insight into how featured artists view themselves in the context of art history.

Artist Talk: Susan Grabel, Sculptor

Sunday, February 5, 2:00pm, Free with Museum admission

Ms. Grabel will give a tour of her retrospective exhibition in the art gallery

Film: Woman Art Revolution: A Film by Lynn Hersman Leeson

Wednesday, March 14, 7:00pm FREE

View the recent film that puts 20th Century American art in perspective- women artists of all ages are invited to this first Staten Island screening.

Through intimate interviews, art, and rarely seen archival film and video footage, Women Art Revolution reveals how the Feminist Art movement fused free speech and politics into an art that radically transformed the art and culture of our times. Presentation of this film is made possible courtesy of Aryn Chapman and Ceres Gallery.

Community Discussion:

Repairing the World: A Tikkun Olam Concept

April 22, 2pm

Bonnie Sussman will lead a panel discussion on the Jewish Kabbalah teaching that individuals are to heal, repair, and balance the world, a premise that informs the socially conscious work of artist Susan Grabel.

Image:

Address Unknown, clay/wood, 1989, Susan Grabel.

Photo by Geoffrey Clements

About the Staten Island Museum

Founded in 1881, the Staten Island Museum, New York City's only general interest museum, engages visitors with interdisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art and history based on its diverse collections. The Museum is dedicated to making its current and future collections broadly accessible for educators, students, researchers and the general public by providing authentic experiences in the field and at the Museum.

Located two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark along with oddities in the Hall of Natural Sciences and experience the life of Staten Island's first inhabitants. For current exhibitions, visit www.StatenIslandMuseum.org.

Staten Island Museum (St. George)

75 Stuyvesant Pl.
Staten Island, NY 10301

Museum Hours:

Monday – Friday: 11 am– 5pm
Saturday 10am–5pm
Sunday 12pm – 5pm

Main number: (718) 727-1135

The museum building is wheelchair accessible. Call (718) 727-1135 for assistance.

Admission

Adults \$3.
Students and Seniors: \$2.
FREE to members and children under 12.
FREE Lunchtime Break: Every Tuesday between 12–2pm

Staten Island History Center & Archives *New Location*

1000 Richmond Terrace
Snug Harbor Campus, Building H
Staten Island, NY 10301
Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm by appointment
Please contact Cara Dellatte at (718) 727-1135, ext. 122