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**For Immediate Release**

## **Betty Bressi Retrospective and Kaleidoscopic Porcelain to open at the Staten Island Museum**

*January 25 – April 8, 2015*

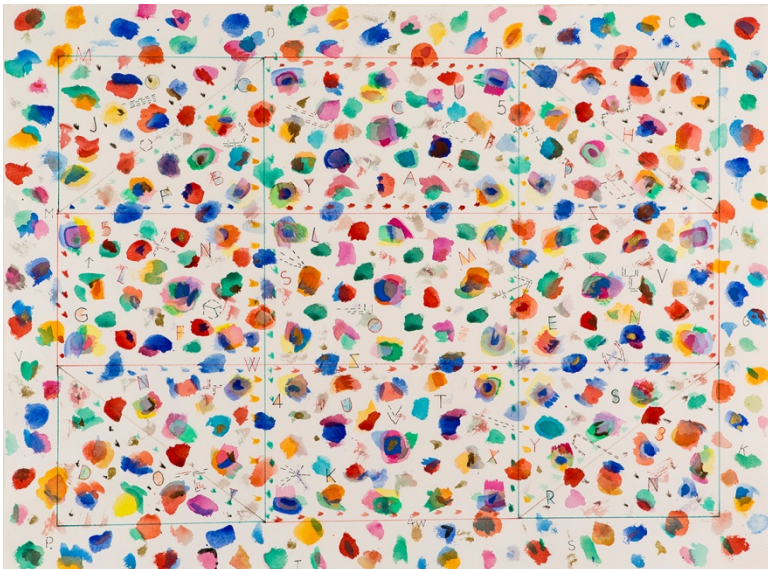
**Event Date:** Sunday, January 25, 2014 Opening Reception

**Time:** 2:00pm– 4:00pm

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

**Admission:** \$5/ Free for Museum Members

(Staten Island, NY – December 31, 2014) Staten Island Museum is opening two new exhibitions next month: **Betty Bressi Retrospective** and **Kaleidoscopic Porcelain: From the Edith & Alfred Susskind Porcelain Collection**. The exhibitions will pay tribute to Betty Bressi and Edith Susskind. Both women, as an artist and collector respectively, spent their lives bringing color, design, and beauty to the Staten Island community. The opening reception for both exhibits will be at the **Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place on Sunday, January 25 at 2pm, \$5/Free for Museum Members.**



Betty Bressi,  
*Multi-colored dots & letters.*  
Watercolor, colored pencil on paper.



From the Edith & Alfred Susskind Porcelain Collection

The **Betty Bressi Retrospective** will explore works from the painter, paper weaver, teacher, poet, and editor's 70+ year creative career spanning from her early works made in a Japanese resettlement camp during World War II to her last paper weavings and book works.

Visitors will gain insights into her creative processes and evolution, from a representational painter, to her commitment to abstraction and her personal form of lyrical abstraction, with joyous, whimsical inflections. The exhibition spins out from her personal concerns about observing nature, grid systems, patterns, and words/letter forms as images.

**Kaleidoscopic Porcelain from the Edith & Alfred Susskind Porcelain Collection** is a cornucopia of delightfully patterned porcelain plates and cups that recalls a woman who loved life and made it her business to add panache to everything she did. Portions of the recent gift of the Alfred & Edith Susskind Porcelain Collection will be on exhibition in tandem with the Betty Bressi Retrospective exhibition.

Also on view will be "**Affinities**," works from the Museum Collection that relate to Ms. Bressi's art, including creations by Charles Hinman, Milton Glaser, Utagawa Hiroshige, Victor Vasarely, William Blake, Arthur Wesley Dow, a Tlingit Basket, and others, assembled by the Museum's Curator of Art, Robert Bunkin.

### **About Betty Bressi**

Brooklyn born, Betty Bressi was a fixture in the art scene of Staten Island for over 43 years, since she moved to Staten Island in 1970. A dedicated educator, Bressi taught in a Japanese internment camp on the West Coast, kindergarten and early grades in upstate NY and Massachusetts before transitioning to the education departments of the University of Buffalo, Queens College, and Richmond College (now the College of Staten Island).

Although Ms. Bressi took art courses, she was mostly self-taught. Her degree was in education from St. Joseph's College with a master's and doctorate from Teachers College at Columbia University. She also studied poetry at the New School.

Ms. Bressi was a winner of the Weissglass Purchase Prize at the Staten Island Museum. Her work is also represented in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art. In the 1970s, she was among the first artists to rent workspace at what was then the brand new Snug Harbor Cultural Center.

### **About Edith and Alfred Susskind**

Native Staten Islander Edith Susskind was known to most as a gift specialist, boa-wearing business woman, and benefactor for education and culture, but she was also an avid collector of decorative arts. In 1943 Alfred and Edith married and shared their lives and love of early porcelain and fine antiques until his death in 1996. Mr. Susskind's wedding-anniversary gift to his bride was her original retail shop on Elizabeth Street, around the corner from her famed Forest Avenue location.

Mrs. Susskind was a 1987 Advance Woman of Achievement winner and a Soroptimist International Woman of Distinction. She was presented with the Louis R. Miller Business Leadership Award and was inducted into the Curtis High School Alumni Hall of Fame. She was also named a Woman of Valor by the UJA Federation.

Mrs. Susskind taught marketing and retailing courses, as well as a course on antiques at the College of Staten Island. She sponsored scholarship community service awards each year at PS 45, West Brighton, her alma mater, and at PS 52, Dongan Hills.

Related programming will include colorful paper weaving for family visitors, and poetry readings.

### **Betty's Typewriter Love Fest– a Second Saturday event**

Saturday, February 14, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Free with Museum admission

Betty Bressi inspires us to use the queen of machines- the typewriter to make art! Poetry, dance and art – fingers get ready, our typewriters will await you. Use ours or bring your own manual typewriter

Featured guests: 2:00 pm -3:00pm Typewriter Poetry with travelling public/performance poet Billimarie will create unique poems for you on her 1950's pink typewriter.

3:00pm-3:30 Typewriter Performance by Deep Tanks Butoh with dancers Jayoung Yoon and Florence Poulain, and percussionist/composer Kevin Norton.

### **Curator's Talk: Betty Bressi & Edith Susskind**

Sunday March 8, 2:00pm

Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place

Curator Robert Bunkin will discuss works by Betty Bressi and in the Edith Susskind Collection. Special guest speaker, Susan Visconti will reminisce about her aunt, Betty.

**Lunch & Learn: Betty Bressi & Edith Susskind**

Wednesday March 18, 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place

\$25.00 Pastosa Box Lunch included

To purchase a reservation call Loretta Lonecke at 718.483.7103 by March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Curator Robert Bunkin tours the works of Artist Betty Bressi and Collector Edith Susskind

*This exhibition has been funded in part by NYC Department of Cultural Affairs & the New York State Council on the Arts, special thanks to the Estate of Betty Bressi.*

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**About the Staten Island Museum**

Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 134<sup>th</sup> year, 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 serves over 219,000 adults and school children at the Museum and in the community. 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 in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island's first inhabitants. In Building H on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions in the History Center Gallery, or make a research appointment for the History Archives & Library. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibits, visit [StatenIslandMuseum.org](http://StatenIslandMuseum.org).

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**Visitor Information**

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**Staten Island Museum (St. George)**

75 Stuyvesant Place

**Hours:**

Monday – Friday: 11:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday: 12:00pm – 5:00pm

**History Center & Archives**

1000 Richmond Terrace, Snug Harbor, Bldg H

**Hours:**

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10:00pm – 4:00pm

By appointment only.

Contact Cara Dellatte at 718.483.7122

**Universal Accessibility**

**Recommended Admission**

Adults \$5.

Students & Seniors \$3.

Members & Children under 12 FREE

**History Gallery Hours**

Tuesday – Friday: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

FREE