

“115 Years Old and Brand New Again”: The Art Connection Places Artwork at the New Dorchester House

From her work-station facing the entrance to the Dorchester House, **Cherie Bowles**, the afternoon receptionist, sees them all: The 9-year-old rushing to a special swimming program for kids with asthma. A middle-aged man scheduled for an annual eye exam. Two senior citizens heading to their weekly bingo game with the ‘Guys and Gals’ Club. The diversity of those entering the Dorchester House is indicative of the wide range of services offered by the center.

Originally opened in 1889 as a school, the Dorchester House has always provided a safe neighborhood haven. In addition to providing affordable, accessible, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary health services, Dorchester House offers a wide range of recreational and social services for one of the largest and most diverse working-class neighborhoods in Boston.

Recently, the Dorchester House completed a major renovation, modernization, and expansion process. The new state-of-the art facility was dedicated in a grand opening on May 17, 2002. Hundreds of guests were greeted by a spacious and bright new building. Floor to ceiling windows spread light throughout the space, plants accent areas with green and original artwork covers the walls. Most of the new art pieces were contributed by The Art Connection (TAC). **Dawn Brennan-Daly**, Dorchester House’s Director of Fundraising, Marketing and Special Events, worked with TAC to place 14 original art works by **Julie Baer**, **Prilla Smith Brackett**, **Fay Chandler**, **Suzanne Hodes**, **Howard Lizotte**, **Leslie Miller**, **Ellen Rich**, **Durlabh Singh** and **Maria Termini**.

continued on page 3



Boston mayor Thomas M. Menino and TAC Program Manager Jay Knox, at the Dorchester House grand opening, with artist Maria Termini’s “Piano Jazz Plant.”



Jim McDonald, The Art Connection’s Executive Director, discussing details of Julie Baer’s “Deutsch Son” with the artist in her Cambridge home.

Windows into the Souls

Eyes meet your gaze everywhere you turn in the warm and colorful home of Cambridge artist **Julie Baer**, a contributor to The Art Connection. Omnipresent, the family cats track visitors with typical feline disinterest. Seemingly alive, dozens of other eyes peer at you from the walls, the rooms, and leading up the stairs to Julie’s sky-lit home studio. Some of these eyes belong to family members, whose smiling photos grace the refrigerator doors and walls. More haunting are the eyes of the individuals depicted in Julie Baer’s moving series “Souls.”

In “Souls,” Baer used photographs of holocaust victims she found in books and other collections to create powerful mixed-media portraits. Each portrait in the series contains the likeness of an individual, usually a child. To Baer, this series represents a personal process of dealing with grief associated with the loss of a sibling. In “Souls,” she became a voice for those who had none, expresses the suffering she carries within her, and resurrects lost souls in the process.

“I had these little faces that needed to be in people’s lives, not just leaning against the wall.”

continued on page 3

The Art Connection, Inc.
539 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 338-7668
Fax (617) 451-2884
artinfo@art2life.org
www.art2life.org

Executive Director
James McDonald

Board of Directors

Alyce Adams
Carol Bonnar
Betsy Boveroux, Clerk Treasurer
Fay Chandler, Founder
Mary Coogan, Vice Chair
Paul Foley
Linda George
Barbara Glauber
Henry Goodrow
Amanda Hurd, Chair
Anna Faith Jones
Mary M. Lassen
Anne Malone
Dale Mitchell
Susan Rodgeron
Michael Tucci

Honorary Directors

Jane Alexander
Ralph Hamilton
Grace Hartigan
Maud Morgan (deceased)

Advisors

A.D. (Appy) Chandler
Elizabeth Coxe
Susan Hartnett
Sarah L. Hutt
Allen B. Koenig
Eleanor Lazarus
Leah Lipton
Susan McCraw
Irving Rabb
George Shaw
Nancy Simonds
Howard M. Turner, Jr.

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.

2002 by The Art Connection, Inc.
We welcome your contributions and comments. Please call or send email to artinfo@art2life.org.

Newsletter layout by Kim Penza.

Report from the Executive Director

As summer approaches, The Art Connection looks forward to placing art in our 100th recipient agency! We have now partnered with ninety-four non-profit and social service agencies, each working to build a stronger, better community. Each is now home to original art by Boston area (and New York and London!) artists.

Yes, London. An international addition to our talented group of contributing artists, **Durlabh Singh**, a London painter and poet, found us through our website, contacted us last summer, and contributed ten paintings which were selected by three agencies, and most recently by Dorchester House, featured in this newsletter. Mr. Singh recently donated ten more paintings.

On the office front, in January we said farewell to our program coordinator, **Jennifer Erbe**, who left to continue her art studies. Though we miss her, we are very lucky to have **Jay Knox** building our art donation and place-

ment program, and continuing our efforts to build stronger relationships with our partner agencies.

On the volunteer front, we recently recruited the very talented **Miri Goldstein**, a freelance brand consultant and ceramicist who has done much of the research, writing, and photography for this newsletter, and who will be helping us on a number of marketing-related efforts in the future. Many thanks to her, to all of our outreach volunteers, to our board and to our funders, and to our contributing artists, who make it possible for The Art Connection to "bring art to life!"

Finally, please save the evening: Saturday, September 14, 2002. We will be celebrating our 8th birthday and our founder Fay Chandler's 80th in a double birthday bash in the Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama. Invitations will be mailed in early August. Have a great, art-filled summer!

Jim McDonald, executive director

Mills Gallery Drawing Show: Location for Art Connection Celebration



Seth Read (left), a financial analyst with Partners Community Healthcare, Inc., with his wife, artist and master printer Carolyn Muskat, TAC program assistant Sarah Shallbetter, artist (and former TAC program coordinator) Jennifer Erbe, and her husband David Erbe, at Jennifer's going away party in January at the BCA's Mills Gallery Drawing Show.

The Art Connection (TAC) artists and friends gathered in late January to wish all the best to **Jennifer Erbe**, whose work as program coordinator was critical to building the art donation and placement program over the past three years. Deciding to devote her full energies to her own art—photography and a variety of work in other media—Jennifer's contributions to TAC were highlighted in tributes by founder **Fay Chandler** and artist/ex-chair **Cynthia Nartonis**.

In a fitting gesture, TAC contributing artist and master printer **Carolyn Muskat** designed and printed a stunning, hand-sewn invitation for the occasion, based on a dress form, the subject of a series of studies in light by Jennifer. Two of Jennifer's dress form images were on display in the juried show, along with the work by TAC contributing artists **Susan Jane Belton, Laura Evans, Sarah Hutt, Cynthia Nartonis, and Heidi Whitman**. Though no longer working at TAC, Jennifer recently donated several of her original photographs to be added to The Art Connection's art portfolio. Cheers, Jennifer!

Joel Abrams, Dorchester House Executive Director, with Lynn Babington, Director of Clinical programs for Health Services Programs, and artist Julie Baer's painting "Malka Stein."



...Dorchester House continued from page 1

At Dorchester House, providing a sense of community and welcoming atmosphere for all is a daily mission. Numerous bright, large signs in three languages (English, Spanish, and Vietnamese) assure that community members find their way with ease through the maze of corridors, labs, offices and rooms. Colorfully punctuating the walls of the Dorchester House, art contributed by artists affiliated with TAC needs no translation but adds depth, warmth, and personality to the space.

"This room used to be so bare, so drab" commented Rosemary Gallagher, Dorchester House's Secretary and a proud member of the 'Guys and Gals' club. She was impressed by how Prilla Smith Brackett's painting brightens up a meeting room and provides the illusion of a window in a large, cavernous room that has none. That just one piece of art can change a space and have such impact on individuals is not news to those affiliated with the Art Connection. Regardless, watching the transformative nature of art in progress is an exciting aspect of working with TAC.

Back at the entrance to Dorchester House, original works of art now surround Cherie Bowles. The art, Cherie, and the rest of Dorchester House's dedicated staff welcome their neighbors to a brand new "old" place they can still call their own.

—Miri Goldstein



Rosemary Gallagher, Celia Pratt and Madeline Mahoney of Dorchester House's Guys and Gals club enjoying Prilla Smith Brackett's "Window Series #22" at the center's dedication ceremony.

...Windows into the Souls continued from page 1

A paradox of power and loss, pain and hope, the striking, often-times haunted, faces are narrated by text from sacred Hebrew writings as well as popular English verse. They incorporate images of mystical and magical beings, such as angels, and religious icons. Later works in the series include wild life (birds, predators), foreshadowing "Nature," Baer's next series, in which she continued her treatment of nature as a gate to the spiritual realm, while focusing on animals and natural objects.

The power of art to heal and provide redemption is evident in Julie Baer's prolific body of work. What began as a personal process of mourning and quest for healing became the source of solace and strength for those who view and own her art. Her home and work illustrate the important and integral role that art plays in her life and that of her family. Baer, a recipient of fellowships from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture as well as juried prizes, was especially excited about the opportunity presented via The Art Connection to share her work and vision with those who might not otherwise be exposed to, and enriched by, original art work. "I had these little faces that needed to be in people's lives, not just leaning against the wall" said Baer. "They are really, really important to me".

"Malka Stein," one of Julie Baer's "Souls" now has a new home at the Dorchester House. Considering the impact that previous art placements by The Art Connection have had on their adopting agencies, Malka Stein is likely to become really important not only in Cambridge, but in Dorchester as well.

—Miri Goldstein



Photo by Kim Penza

The Boston Foundation hosted a lunch for The Art Connection in May, allowing arts funders, board members, artists, and social service agency representatives to share perspectives and learn more about The Art Connection's work to expand public access to art. Shown above: TAC board member (and contributing artist) **Paul Foley**, board member and previous president of The Boston Foundation **Anna Faith Jones**, and **Ann McQueen**, Program Officer at The Boston Foundation. TAC is deeply indebted to The Boston Foundation for its continued support.

With help from our friends...

Benefactors (\$5,000+)

Frank and Jane P. Batten
Fay* & Alfred Chandler
Mrs. Frederick B. Deknatel
Mr. Henry Goodrow
Ms. Anna Marie Svedrofsky

Institutional & Corporate Support

A Street Frames
Boston Center for the Arts
The Boston Foundation
Charles Sumner Bird
Foundation
First Church of Christ, Scientist
The Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Mass. Cultural Council
Office of Cultural Affairs,
City of Boston
Stanhope Framers

Individual Gifts

Mr. Clark Abt*
Alyce Adams
Sandra Aizley*

Jane Alexander
& Edwin Sherin
Dr. & Mrs. Andrus
Lynn Babington
Julie Baer*
Carol & Sherwood Bain
Richard Barry
Bruce A. Bauman
Susan Jane Belton
Brenda A. Bennett
A. Randall Bentley*
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Berg
Gerald Berlin
Jane Bernstein
Dan & Marge Bernstein
Christina Bird
Don & Alpine Bird
Mrs. R. Bird-Anderson
& Mr. D. Bird
Mrs. Vera Bissell
Ms. Carol Bonnar
Elizabeth S. Boveroux
Prilla Smith Brackett*
George C. & Prilla Smith
Brackett*

Martha Jane Bradford*
Lynn Broutas
Mr. L. Thomas Bryan, Jr.
Dorinda N. Burrows
Eleanor M. Byrne
Irma Cerese*
Nicholas & Toni Chandler
Pierluigi Consagra
Mary Coogan
Ms. Elizabeth D. Cox
Mrs. Margaret Crawford
Allan Rohan Crite*
Cheryl S. Cummer
Carolyn Di Nunzio*
Jeremy Cutting
Niamh Darcy
Donna Dodson*
Aida Donald
Mr. Manuel Duran
Suzanne R. Dworsky
Virginia G. Dyer
Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Elkus
Anne Ellsworth
Jennifer Erbe*
Laura Evans*
Ms. Mary Page Evans
Tess Ewing
Ann Feeley & William Kieffer
Judith and John Felton
Paul Foley
John B. Fox, Jr. & Julia G. Fox
Peggy & Maurie Fox-Warren
Mrs. Marion R. Fremont-Smith
Granger H. Frost
David Garten & Paul Sherman
Linda George
Mr. & Mrs. D. Gillespie
Elizabeth Gilmore
Ruth Ginsberg-Place*
Barbara Glauber
Bera Golahny*
Joan J. Golder
David & Carol Golder
Dorothy Uhlig Green*
Grace Gregor
Alice F. Greif
E. B. Guralnick
John Guthrie*
Shlomith Haber-Schaim*
Ms. Sydney Hamburger

Easley & Suzanne Hamner
Ted & Sally Hansen
Sabine Haque*
Robert Harding*
Thomas N. & Marion R. Harvey
Barbara & Samuel L. Hayes III
Suzanne Hodes*
Mrs. Hugh L. Holland, Jr.
Gerald & Nina Holton
Ms. Emily C. Hood
Mr. & Mrs. Hunt
Amanda & Sam Hurd
Wendy Ingram*
Charlotte & Jonathan Isaacs
Caroline Janover
Betsy and Douglas Johnson
Ms. Anna Faith Jones
Karine Kadiyska*
Elaine F. Kaplan
Phyllis & Morton Keller
Anne Kirchheimer*
Ms. Barbara M. Kirchheimer
Sonia and David Landes
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Lazarus
Mr. Fred Lazarus
Eleanor Lazarus
Ms. Barbara M. Lee
Judith Liberman*
Anita & Robin Lincoln
Leah Lipton
Howard Lizotte*
Ms. Alice Mackey
Ms. Anne Malone
Charles Mansbach*
Maria Markham
& Andrew Putnam
Cynthia Maurice*
Mike Mazur
Kay and John McCahan
Kathleen McCue*
Jim & Joni McDonald
Ms. Mary McKenney
Genevieve McMillan
Leslie Miller*
Dale Mitchell
Kyra and Jean Montagu
Ellen G. Moot
Mary Jane Moreau
Maud Morgan*
Cecily O. Morse

Eva S. Moseley
Stuart & Nancy Murphy
Dr. Caroline C. Murray
Carolyn Muskat*
Cynthia Nartonis*
Cynthia & David Nartonis
Dr. & Mrs. David Nathan
Ms. Elizabeth Nichols
Susan & Thomas O'Connor
Morgan Palmer
Vicki Kocher Paret*
Mary C. Parrish
Stephen Perna
Bennet Philips & Jim Crowley
Lia and William Poorvu
Shirley Pransky
Frances Pratt*
Patricia Pratt
Dorothy M. Preston
Mr. and Mrs. Irving W. Rabb
Lillian Randall
Ms. Mary Rauscher
Ellen Rich*
Leslie and Mark Roberts
Susan Rodgerson
Diane R. Rose*
Cora Roth*
Barbara Rosenkrantz
& J. Nathaniel Marshall
JoAnn Rothschild*
Alexandra Rozenman*
Eleanor Rubin*
Frank & Emily Sander
Juliet Schneider*
Second Street Associations
David Seil
Mr. & Mrs. K.W. Senior
Nancy & Bruce Shaw
Helen S. Shlien
Anne Silber*
Judith Silverstein*
Nancy Shaw*
& Bruce Simonds
Durlabh Singh*
Ms. Elicenne Squire
Mrs. Walter St. Goar
Sherman and Jill Starr
Daniel and Prudence Steiner
Fredericka & Howard
Stevenson

Ned & Deborah Stiles
Mrs. Cynthia H. Sunderland
Ms. Ildiko Szabo
Paulett and Ganson Taggart
Sam Tan*
Maria Termini*
Tom & Mary Fran Townsend
Mr. Michael A. Tucci
Mr. Louis Tucciarone
Deborah B. Tucker
Robert & Emille Turano
Howard Moore Turner, Jr.
Ms. Elizabeth P. van Buren
Frederic B. Viaux
Ann von der Lippe
Bill & Linda Walczak
Lydia Walshin & Ted Chaloner
Debra Weisberg*
Janet Whitla
Barbara Winslow
Etta Wolpert*
Mrs. Eudoxia Woodward
Carolyn Woollen-Tucker
Dr. and Mrs. Abraham Zaleznik
Andy Zimmermann*

Volunteers and Interns

Faina Anufriev
Bridgette Wallace
Lisa F. Camilleri
Julie Corwin
Dawn Davis
Miri Goldstein
Kaitlin Herlihy
Amy Kwok
Beth Merica
Shawna Michaud
Carroll Moshier
Kim Penza
Mary Rauscher
Seth Read
Alisa Taylor
Ann von der Lippe
Alvene Williams
Janet Wolford

* denotes art donor



At the Dorchester House grand opening, Steve Grossman, candidate for Governor, expresses his passion for the arts to Dorchester House Director of Fundraising, Marketing and Special Events, Dawn Brennan-Daly, and TAC Executive Director Jim McDonald.



The Art Connection, Inc.
539 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02116

www.art2life.org



**Save the Date:
Saturday, September 14**

8/80: It's a Celebration!

A double birthday bash honoring founder,
Fay Chandler, on her 80th and The Art
Connection on its 8th.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BOSTON, MA
PERMIT NO.55769

"Bringing Art to Life"