

The Maryland Chapter of Artists Equity Association has a new president, Nannette Clapman Blinchikoff, a Pikesville resident who has set some ambitious goals for her two year term.

Established in 1950 the Maryland Chapter has a membership of 200 and is a branch of the National Artists Equity Association. Our goals are the same as National's, which are to work for and protect the rights of artists," Mrs. Blinchikoff explained, "and each chapter has its own, local goals."

The National Association, a non-profit organization, serves as the collective voice of professional visual artists in the United States. On the local level, Mrs. Blinchikoff reported, "Our organization worked on a bill which the state legislature passed last year; if a gallery goes bankrupt, the artists' works cannot be confiscated. Now, we are working on a bill which prevents artwork from being defaced or destroyed after it is purchased."

Mrs. Blinchikoff has other goals, too. "One of the things I want to do is make Artists Equity more visible in the community, and to strengthen the communication among artists, buyers and the many aspects of the area art scene. When I was doing my master's thesis at Towson State University, I met with public people, with corporation presidents, and I was surprised at how few people even knew the Maryland Chapter existed," she said.

Married 22 years to Herman Blinchikoff, an electrical engineer at Westinghouse, and the mother of three daughters, Mrs. Blinchikoff had originally started her undergraduate work at Towson State but she left after three years to devote herself to her family. In 1972, she returned to Towson State to complete her education. Majoring in art education, she earned her bachelor of science degree and went on for her master's in education.

Her master's degree required a thesis. Mrs. Blinchikoff decided to explore an area dear to the hearts of all artists: how and where to sell



Nannette Blinchikoff

your work. "Basically, I did the legwork for artists," she commented. "I worked on the thesis for a year, and I went from zero knowledge to becoming the expert in the area."

Her extensive research included interviews with local art galleries, art consultants, art transporters, juried art shows and professional photographers who will take other photographers' slides on consignment. "It's all very practical information, a real how-to on selling your work," said Mrs. Blinchikoff. She has since published her thesis on her own. A soft-cover version of "Promoting Fine Art In Baltimore" is available for \$15.

Local art groups and artists' organizations, of which there are several besides the Maryland Chapter, as well as the Maryland Institute of Art, began asking Mrs. Blinchikoff to lecture on the subject. A member of Artists Equity for four years, Mrs. Blinchikoff feels her newfound expertise led to her election as chapter president.

In her own career as an artist, Mrs. Blinchikoff specializes in metal sculpture — "direct welding and cast bronze," she noted — and has participated in a variety of local exhibits. Her work was exhibited at Temple Oheb Shalom this past fall. Upcoming shows include the Morris Mechanic Gallery this spring. Her work may also be seen

Helping the Artist

Nannette Blinchikoff, new president of the local Artists Equity chapter, is an expert at helping artists market their work.

BY BARBARA PASH
Local News Editor

in the Roe Gallery, a newly opened gallery on North Charles Street, as well as in the front window of the Lyric Theater until January 1985.

In addition to her own work, for several years Mrs. Blinchikoff has conducted art classes for children. "The children I teach usually stay with me for a long time," she noted. "I love watching them develop as artists and seeing their creativity and their patience for completing their projects."

The Maryland Chapter of Artists Equity is a volunteer organization, as is the newly formed Maryland Artists Equity Foundation, intended for both artists and the general public. Future Foundation projects, which include workshops and studio tours, will, Mrs. Blinchikoff hopes, "enhance the cultural climate as well as the image of the artist in the community."

This spring, as one of its first projects, the foundation plans to sponsor an exhibit, auction and gala reception. The proceeds will be used to establish a scholarship for a graduating high school student to further his or her art education.

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