

Spring benefit auction

ESCA Celebrates at Steuben — Collect New York!

Over 400 craft enthusiasts attended ESCA's annual gala benefit auction on Thursday evening, March 19th. The event, titled Collect New York!, was ESCA's third annual fundraiser, and the second held at the elegant midtown Manhattan showrooms of Steuben Glass. Guests sipped New York State champagne while placing bids on 100 works by statewide craft artists, which ranged from sleek forms in clay and glass to woven tapestries, furniture and contemporary jewelry and metal.

The evening began with welcoming remarks by Honorary Chairman Mr. James R. Houghton, CEO of Corning Glass Works, and Ms. Susan B. King, President of Steuben. Mr. Joseph Papp, producer of the New York Shakespeare Festival, was guest auctioneer for the evening. Five works were sold at live auction — one each in clay, fiber, glass, wood and metal. The remaining 95 pieces were offered in silent bidding throughout the evening.



The event was a festive celebration, and gave widespread visibility to many fine craft artists from New York State while raising funds for ESCA's ongoing programs and special projects. Final tallies indicate that the evening grossed approxi-

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Among the many successful bidders at "Collect New York!" was Steuben Glass president Susan B. King, who purchased a glass and neon sculpture by Hans Frode (left). Over 400 guests attended the ESCA benefit auction on March 19. For more benefit photos see p. 3. Photo: Jeanne Trudeau

Governor Cuomo Proclaims April as NYS Ceramics Month

In recognition of the "significant contributions made by ceramic artists" and the many craft-related activities taking place in New York State, Governor Mario Cuomo has proclaimed April as New York Ceramic Arts Month.

In his proclamation Cuomo said that "it is fitting that all New Yorkers give recognition and appreciation to the significant contributions made by ceramic artists." He noted that "New York has

historically been a leader in many contemporary ceramic movements" and that many important aesthetic trends have originated here.

National attention will be focused on New York in April when the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) meets in Syracuse April 8-11. The proclamation also mentions the collaborative programming with the Empire State Crafts Alliance annual meeting, as the two organizations bring together ceramic

artists from around the world and statewide artists working in many craft media. In addition, over 50 museums and galleries throughout the state have scheduled exhibitions and programs for the month-long celebration.

The joint conferences are the result of months of planning by NCECA and ESCA representatives. Nearly 2,000 individuals are expected to participate in the Syracuse gathering.