

**À la Pintura / Art & Invention**  
**Usdan Gallery, Bennington College**  
**April 5-26, 1994**

À la Pintura: Artist's Books by Robert Motherwell highlights the series of 24 large scale prints and text by that title produced by the artist at Universal Limited Art Editions between 1968 and 1972. Motherwell was moved to produce the work in response to poems of Rafael Alberti. The English translation of Alberti which inspired Motherwell was the work of Bennington poet and translator Ben Belitt. Belitt is the owner of the prints of "À la Pintura" on exhibition.

Motherwell's "À la Pintura" is a tour de force of contemporary graphic art. The suite was shown, shortly after its completion, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the late fall of 1972. The following year it was the subject of an exhibition in Usdan Gallery. Motherwell received his first retrospective at Bennington College's New Gallery, or Carriage Barn, in 1959.

Along with "À la Pintura" will be shown selections from three other of Motherwell's livres d'artiste: "El Negro," (Black) (1983), also created in response to Alberti; "Octavio Paz Suite" (1988); and "Ulysses", also 1988. Pending approval, the latter pieces will be on loan from the Dedalus Foundation, Inc. through the courtesy of Catherine Mosley, formerly printer to Motherwell, currently teacher of printing at Bennington College.

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Art and Invention will focus on the career of George A. C. Holt (1902 - 1988), faculty member at Bennington from 1941 - 1968. Known to many in the community for his public art workshops and later photographs, Holt had a long and varied career that included study in Canada and Europe, and important contributions to the restoration, in the 1930s, of the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

Printmaker, draughtsman, painter, and worker in collage, mosaic, metal, and other media, Holt was constantly at work bringing his artistic ideas to life. As a teacher he touched many through his devotion both to the technical and expressive aspects of the visual arts.

Art and Invention will show representative portions of Holt's work, as well as attempt to convey some of the excitement of the workshop and studio in which he was most at home.

Art and Invention was organized with the support of the Holt Art Fund and its contributors, and the special assistance of Ernst and Sarah Schwarz. Curator for both exhibitions is Thomas Fels.

A joint opening for both exhibitions will be held on April 5, 1994 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

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Thomas Fels is an independent curator, and writer, and organizer of some fifteen exhibitions, who has worked as a consultant to a number of museums, including the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Canadian Centre for Architecture. He has written widely on American culture and art. His O Say Can You See: American Photographs 1839-1939 was published by MIT Press, 1989, and Watkins to Weston, California Photography, 1849-1950, by Roberts Rinehart, 1992. He is currently Assistant to the Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Clark Art Institute, and Director of the Art Archives Project at Bennington College.