

ELIZABETH REED KELLER

1917-1976

"The idea of reconnecting Libby with Bennington appealed tremendously to me, and not only because she was a devoted alumna. Libby had started out in art and her active interest in the art world, particularly painting, which had been so sustaining to her in later years, had been stimulated and nurtured at Bennington many years ago. At no other college that I know of could that have happened as it did at Bennington.

"During World War II, Libby collected modern Italian paintings overseas and much later, when she lived in Houston, helped arrange the Bennington meetings which tied in with the opening of the new Contemporary Museum of Fine Arts. Of course, she was active in many other facets of life around her, and had, actually, been a social studies major (she graduated in economics in 1938) at the College. But her real interest in later life, as you who know her well will agree, was in the arts."

So wrote Rosamund Reed Bodman, Libby's sister, herself a Bennington graduate ('44) when she and Libby's husband Brooks, their three children, Candace, Margot and Phillips Brooks III ('74) established the Elizabeth Reed Keller Memorial Exhibition Fund at Bennington. The Fund has grown steadily since its establishment as many of Libby's friends — including former Bennington classmates — have contributed to it.

The Keller Fund sponsors an annual show at Bennington College of work by new and outstanding artists.