

Bennington graduates to exhibit works

An exhibit of the works of more than 35 artists who graduated from Bennington College in the last 15 years or so will be held in the Suzanne Lemberg Usdan Gallery on the college campus from May 1 to 29.

The gallery is located in the Visual and Performing Arts Center and the public is invited to view the exhibit between 1 and 5 p.m. from Monday through Friday. A reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1.

Titled "Bennington Artists: The Years After," the exhibit was curated by Sidney Tillim, a member of the visual arts faculty as well as a painter and writer, who also compiled a catalog to accompany the show.

Tillim wrote in the catalog, "It may be that in inviting 35 to 40 former Bennington students to show examples of their professional output to the public at the present time, the Bennington College art division is showing off a bit. But there is also the possibility — nay, there is the likelihood — of renewing the mutuality between former students, now artists, and the college. It is an act of recognition of what students and faculty taught each other and how much there still is — and always will be — to learn."

The exhibit was sponsored in part by the Elizabeth Reed Keller Exhibition Fund, a memorial dedicated to a member of the class of 1938 at Bennington, and by a supplemental grant from Suzanne Lemberg Usdan, a 1951 graduate for whom the gallery is named and who

is also a current trustee of Bennington.

A limited number of copies of the catalog will be for sale by the art division for \$5 each.

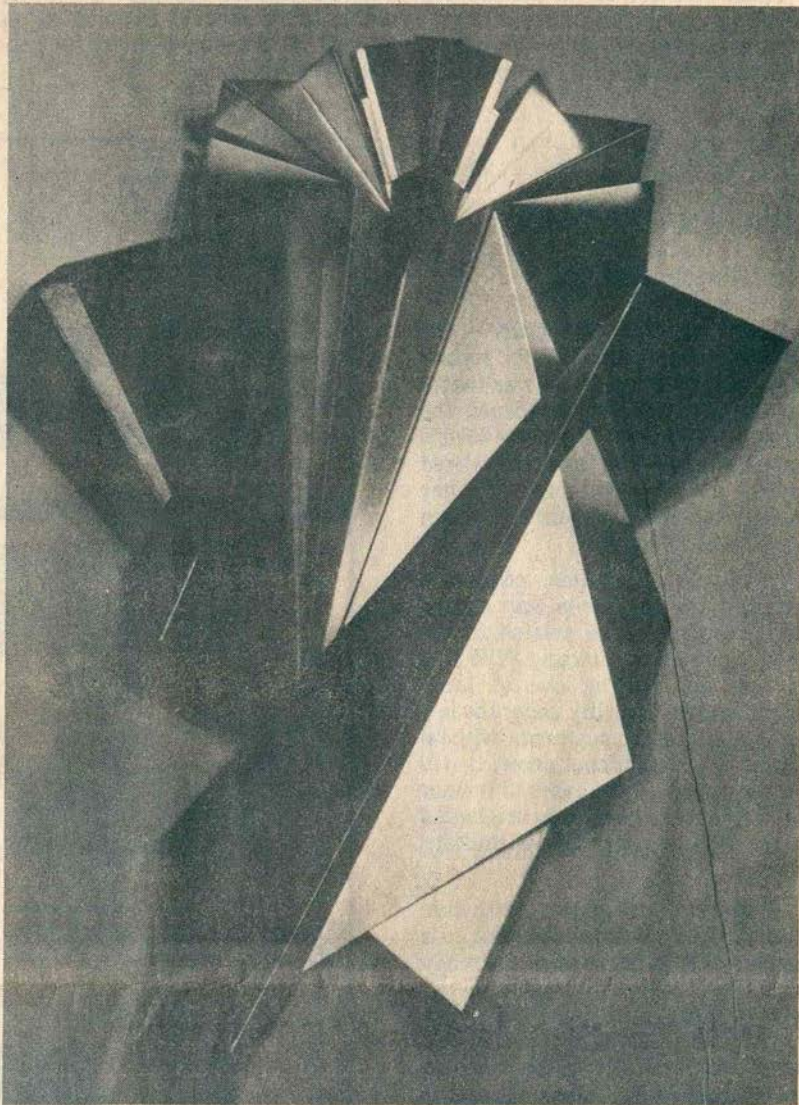
The works to be exhibited include mostly paintings in oil or acrylics but also other forms of visual arts such as sculpture, ceramics, photography, drawings, prints, mixed media and architecture.

Artists in the show who reside and work in the Bennington region include Lexey Lee Russell of Shaftsbury, Londa Weisman of North Bennington, Jan Cook of White Creek, N.Y., Leslie Parke of Shushan, N.Y. and Leslie Griest and Liz Caspari of Cambridge, N.Y.

Although Bennington is not an "art school" as such, its name has been long associated with the "new American art" that emerged after World War II. Since its founding in 1932, the college's liberal arts curriculum has been integrated with the visual and performing arts.

Painters Jackson Pollock and Barnett Newman had their first retrospective shows at Bennington in the 1950s. And in the 1960s Bennington was linked with the influential artists Kenneth Noland, Tony Caro, Jules Olitski, Tony Smith and David Smith, all of whom taught at the college.

Abstract expressionist Helen Frakenthaler, who graduated in 1949 and who is a former Bennington trustee, is probably the college's best known artist alumna. A major exhibition of her works was held in the Usdan Gallery in 1978.



This sculpture of galvanized sheet metal is one of the works of more than 35 artists, recent graduates of Bennington College, which will be exhibited at the Usdan Gallery at the college during the month of May. This work is by Lisa Sheer, a 1978 graduate, and is called "Untitled #2." It measures 58 by 42½ by 9½ inches.