

*Artists View
Washington*

THE OCTAGON

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS FOUNDATION, INC.

ARTISTS VIEW WASHINGTON

April 2 - April 28 1974

THE OCTAGON

1799 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C.

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

"Artists View Washington" automatically evokes visions of a stereotypical capital: monumental federal facades, expansive malls and reflecting pools, towering obelisks and, of course, the commanding Capitol building itself. These structures do merit recognition and lend character to Washington. However, as is evident in "Artists View Washington", there is much more to the Washington cityscape than meets the eye of the hurried tourist or the harried Washingtonian. The views in this exhibit are the intimate views of the nation's capital seen through the trained and sensitive eye of a native artist.

Predictably, this collection exhibits a great deal of variety not only in style, but in medium and subject matter as well. Each of these works offers a refreshing and novel perspective of the character of the Washington evidenced in its mundane structures and streets. Several of these works represent areas that are no longer extant, and hence serve as small, cultural and historical reminders. The rapidity with which older sections of Washington are being demolished or allowed to deteriorate has supplied an additional, urgent incentive to some of these artists. Some of those represented here have chosen to record highly personal views of a Washington not accessible to the general public. Others have elected to record genre scenes of the street life of the city and its commercial structures.

These views of Washington are presented not only as complete, self-contained entities, but also as insights into the rich and diverse character of the capital city. The exhibit results in an interesting and informative interpretation of Washington from many viewpoints, opening new vistas for the viewer.

The idea behind the exhibition was conceived when James O'Brien brought his work to the attention of the Octagon. It was decided that the variety afforded by a group showing would best fulfill the goals of this show. Artists' Equity was contacted, and consented to select those artists involved in addition to Mr. O'Brien.

The artists are listed in this catalog alphabetically. Below the name and address of the contributor appears a statement on his or her work and a brief list of accomplishments.

All inquiries concerning works of art in the exhibition should be referred to the individual artists.

MICHAEL CLARK

220 East 60th Street #6F
New York City, NY 10022

"Michael Clark develops drawing styles and subject-matter based on historical forms of art and architecture. At the same time, he employs a non-optical approach to color distantly related to the Pointillist style. Though it appears that Clark is immersed in the past, the opposite is true. He is a thoroughly avant-garde artist dealing successfully with complex color problems and, on a profound conceptual level, with the central problems of synchrony and diachrony. The result is that he not only creates a new context for the use and perception of color, but he also sheds new light on our understanding of the static, salient elements of the past and how they emerge into the present -- a problem which structuralist theoreticians like Claude Levi-Straus and Roman Jakobson have given considerable enlightenment." - James Harithas

Media: Graphite on paper

Education: Pratt Institute, Brooklyn NY

Individual shows: Jefferson Place Gallery, 1968
Ace Company (Washington, DC) 1970
Pyramid Gallery, Ltd. 1971
University of Pennsylvania Gallery 1971
Corcoran Gallery of Art 1971
Lunn Gallery 1973
Everson Museum (Syracuse, New York) 1973
Andrew Crispo Gallery (New York)1974

Group Shows: U. S. Department of State 1966
Eight Young Washington Painters: Jewish Community Center, 1967
18th area Exhibition, The Corcoran Gallery of Art 1967
"Five Young Artists", The Corcoran Gallery of Art 1967
"The Art of Organic Forms", Smithsonian Institution 1968
"Washington, 1968, New Painting and Structure", Corcoran Gallery of Art 1968
"Washington Painters", Ringling Museum, Sarasota, Florida 1969
"Washington Painters", Museum of Art, Jacksonville, Florida 1969
"Ten Washington Artists: 1950-1970", Edmonton Art Gallery, Edmonton, Canada 1970
"20 Years of Washington Painting", Baltimore Museum of Art
"New York Drawing Society Show" Philadelphia Museum of Art