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The Public Is Invited To Meet David Tobey

By Michael David Dandry

With music, provided by the Kirk Ehrenrich Duo and catering by Antonees of White Plains, the evening of Tuesday, June 19th, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Gallery at Cunningham Realty, 50 Broadway, Hawthorne, NY, will herald a new concept for the arts in Westchester County.

Simply stated, the Tobey Exhibit is the first in an ongoing series that is co-sponsored by a number of Westchester banking, real estate and older county businesses.

For this reporter, who regularly



Cunningham Realty Ltd. president Patti Cunningham with artist David Tobey and his welded steel sculpture "Podium". Tobey's paintings "Dark Garden" (L) and "A River View" (R) are on the wall in back.

attends many of the Westchester cultural events, the notion of adapting business space for art exhibits makes total sense. Then again, many of the county's volunteer arts groups, such as The New Rochelle Council on the Arts, where David Tobey is a past president, regularly create 5 week exhibits that are then dismantled and stored away. The June 19th Tobey Show points to

the logic that whether it's a New Rochelle Exhibit, or one created in Mamaroneck, Harrison, North Castle, etc., these exhibits and the artists who created them should tour

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the county. In the past, the tour idea floundered on the question of where to mount future exhibits. Under the creative leadership of Patti Cunningham, the answer to the "where" question is the Westchester business community in particular, businesses that cater to the public, like a realty office or spacious bank lobbies and interiors.

Readers wanting to know more about this new approach to the county's art scene can do so by focusing on the following comments and invitation issued by realtor Patti Cunningham.

A one-man exhibition of over two dozen paintings, welded steel sculptures and prints by artist David Tobey, son of the well-known muralist and historical painter Alton S. Tobey (1914-2005) is at a new art exhibition space, The Gallery at Cunningham Realty, Ltd., 50 Broadway in Hawthorne, NY through July 2007. The Tobey exhibition, one of the first in an ongoing series of art shows being presented by Cunningham, is being co-sponsored by a number of Westchester banking, real estate, art and other county businesses.

Patricia Cunningham, president of Cunningham Realty Ltd., who is responsible for creating the gallery in their offices, said that her new office suite space reflect values beyond "business as usual." Cunningham notes that "just as our clients want spaces which reflect their values, we wanted an office suite which reflects ours. Art enhances our lives, stimulates our minds and can bring out the best in people. I wanted my professional team to have an attractive, energizing work environment. In addition, using our more than 150 running feet of wall space to promote artists helps the artists, enriches the community and provides a stimulating space for our clients and other visitors."

Art Jay, Marketing Director, adds, "What we are doing here is not that far removed from what the major families and guilds of Florence, Italy were doing back in the Renaissance. We're just reviving a tradition established long ago. David Tobey's work soars in the space and has generated a great deal of comment and interest, even before the

official opening."

Artist David Tobey studied in his early years with his late father, Alton S. Tobey, whose paintings are in major museums throughout the country, but who is best known here for his historical Roots of Westchester mural at the County Court House in White Plains. In addition to being a professional violinist and graduate of The Juilliard School of Music, David holds an MFA in Studio Art from the College of New Rochelle where he resides, teaches and is a regular member of Plelades Gallery in New York City, where he will be having his next one man New York City show in the fall of 2007. His art has been published on the album cover "First Flight" by Oren Fader, on posters at New York's Lincoln Center and his work is in the collection of the George Bush Library. He has published his art as prints with Scafa, Modern Art and Ray Greenberg Art Publishing, and he has had many one man and group shows in New York, Westchester and Connecticut.

He describes his work, in his own words, as "...exploring the aesthetic between visual abstraction and music... and exploring energy and rhythm with a strict eye on the structured whole." A 2003 magazine review of his first one-man show in New York City describes his painting. "He rides the rhythms in his canvases and reigns them in, much as a composer controls the ebb and flow of a symphony as it is coaxed into being. As with any piece of music, this involves a synthesis of spontaneity and restraint, as he works and reworks the composition, balancing its various elements until they coalesce in a dynamic chromatic and formal fusion."

The opening reception for the exhibition will be held on Tuesday evening, June 19th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Gallery At Cunningham, 50 Broadway, Hawthorne, NY and all are cordially invited. Refreshments will be served and entertainment will be provided by the Kirk Ehrenreich Duo and catered by Antonees - Corporate Catering of White Plains. For more information, call the gallery at 914-741-4010 or visit the David Tobey website at www.davidthobey.com