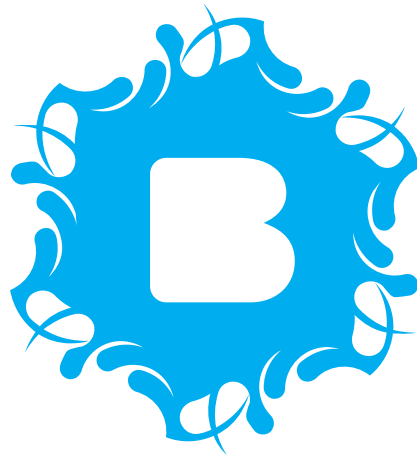


Press Release



November 2009

**Exhibition of Civil War–Related Artworks and Historical Objects
On View in Herstory Gallery of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art
January 29 through October 17, 2010**

An exhibition of nearly thirty artworks and historical objects celebrating the contributions of Union women to a Civil War relief effort known as the Sanitary Movement is the subject of the latest exhibition in the Herstory Gallery of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art. *Healing the Wounds of War: The Brooklyn Sanitary Fair of 1864*, on view from January 29 through October 17, focuses on one of the many sanitary fairs held in Northern cities to raise money to aid the Union troops, each seeking to outdo the others.

The Herstory Gallery is dedicated to exhibitions that relate to the lives and histories of the 1,038 women named in *The Dinner Party* by Judy Chicago, which is on permanent view in the adjacent gallery. Represented in Chicago's iconic work is Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States and a leader of the Sanitary Movement.

Although the U.S. Sanitary Commission, an official government agency signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, was headed by men, much of its work to support the Federal army with funds and supplies was accomplished by thousands of women volunteers. They helped to organize sanitary fairs, marking the first time during the Civil War that women expressed their patriotism in the public sphere rather than the domestic arena.

In Brooklyn, women's organizations produced the successful Brooklyn and Long Island Sanitary Fair, featuring dances, parades, merchandise sales, auctions, and a cattle show. The event lasted two weeks and raised a remarkable \$400,000, four times more than anticipated.

The focal point of the exhibition is an exceptional doll and its trousseau, made by the dressmaker Eliza Lefferts for the 1864 Brooklyn fair, which was held in a Montague Street location. The doll and her exquisitely created wardrobe, last on public view in 1985, entered the Brooklyn Museum collection in 1924.

Also included in the exhibition are lithographs that depict the halls of the Brooklyn Sanitary Fair, where handmade items were for sale, as well as engravings of several magazine illustrations by Winslow Homer showing scenes of the war and the relief effort at home. The material in the exhibition is from the Brooklyn Museum's permanent collections, augmented by loans of ephemera from the Brooklyn Historical Society.

Brooklyn Museum

200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238-6052

T (718) 638-5000 F (718) 501-6134

www.brooklynmuseum.org

The exhibition has been organized by Catherine Morris, Curator of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum.

Press Contact:

Sally Williams, Public Information Officer, (718) 501-6330, sally.williams@brooklynmuseum.org

Adam Husted, Media Relations Manager, (718) 501-6331, adam.husted@brooklynmuseum.org

Marcus Romero, Associate Publicist, (718) 501-6354, marcus.romero@brooklynmuseum.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$10; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$6. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48.

On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.