The Gelman Named Newly Endowed Gelman Professor
by Alson Kaplan Michael

Columbia has appointed renowned artist Gregory Amenoff as the inaugural Joe and Herman Gelman Professor of the Visual Arts in the School of the Arts (SOA). Amenoff, a professor of art in the Visual Arts Division, is a widely respected painter and printmaker known for working in the tradition of abstraction. His works are rooted in landscapes, both remembered and imagined, and are influenced by the geographies of Cape Cod, New Mexico and the Umbria region of Italy. The newly established chair is a result of a generous donation from the estate of Columbia alumna Ellen Gelman SOA ’64, who died in March 2002. For more than two decades, Gelman was an associate professor of painting and drawing at the University of Maryland, yet she maintained strong ties with her alma mater. In fall 2000, she instituted the popular live and Herman Gelman Studio Visits Series, in which New York City artists, such as Leon Golub and Sarah Sze, open their studios to SOA students to observe and discuss their work. She also endowed the program.

Gregory Amenoff, Ellen Gelman’s parents, Eve and Herman Gelman, who are deceased. In addition, her estate has created the Ellen Gelman Endowed Fellowship Fund, which will grant at least half the cost of tuition to an SOA student. The studio program will continue.

The generosity of Ellen Gelman and the trustees of her estate, with the commitment to the visual arts will benefit Columbia and its students for generations to come.

By Alson Kaplan Michael

Faculty Perspectives
Lifting the Lives of Women by Madeleine Albright

Editor’s note: The following is from Albright’s keynote address at a panel featuring women foreign ministers and permanent representatives to the United Nations during the World Leaders Forum, cosponsored by the Council of Women World Leaders and the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies.

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The convention will be a major theme of our panel and I can only say that implementation is not an issue in the United States because the United States hasn’t yet ratified it. When I was Secretary of State I asked the Senate over and over again to approve the Convention. The problem is that the person whose cooperation I needed most was the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms. In 1997, I went down to North Carolina with the Senator and delivered the Jesse Helms Letter at his hometown university. This was, it’s safe to say, the only lecture in history named after Jesse Helms that included a rousing call for the approval of CEDAW. I don’t know who was more surprised, Senator Helms or me when the crowd actually cheered. And so that made me realize that we cannot give up.

As Senator RobertKennedy used to say, if there’s no one standing in your way it’s probably because you’re not going anywhere. The women’s movement is all about overcoming obstacles, and in the fight for CEDAW our opponents should understand that we will persist until we prevail. Albright is a visiting fellow at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies.

Lifting the Lives of Women
by Madeleine Albright

A law suit against five giant utilities by state attorneys general and New York City officials was a major topic of discussion at “The Role of State Attorneys General in National Environmental Policy” conference Sept 20 at the Law School. The lawsuit, analyzed at the conference by Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and Columbia Law Professor Thomas Merrill, seeks a court order requiring utilities to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide, which most scientific authorities agree is a key contributor to global warming.

Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, elaborated on an invitation of Law Dean David Schier. Sachs is looking forward to working with state attorneys general on the problem of climate change. The global warming lawsuit is being complained of as a potential impact to the early legal actions against tobacco companies. In the tobacco settlements and the new global warming case, state attorneys general led the efforts.

Providing an opportunity for frank discussion by state attorneys general, their key staff, academics and important stakeholders in national environmental policy was the motivation for this conference by Columbia Law School’s Program in Public Law and Justice. This program is a major law school. The program, supported by representatives from a majority of the states, several law schools and important non-governmental organizations.

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