

Gallery Exhibit Includes the Controversial "Christa" Sculpture; in NYC for the First Time Since 1984



Exhibition: Art of Edwina Sandys:
A Retrospective

Venue: Alexandre Gertsman
Contemporary Art
652 Broadway, Floor 2
New York, NY 10012

Dates: November 1- December 10, 2011

Gallery exhibit by appointment only.
Contact: (646) 344-1325 or
www.agcontemporaryart.com

(NEW YORK, NY - October, 2011) - Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art will open an exhibition, Art of Edwina Sandys: A Retrospective on November 1, 2011. The exhibition chronicles four decades of artist Edwina Sandys' work, including Christa (1975), the first representation of a female Christ on a cross. Models of her large outdoor installations will also be on display at the gallery.

Christa, a bronze sculpture affixed to a lucite cross standing 4x5 feet, provoked frenzied attention during its first showing in London, 1975. The work has not been on display since it was shown at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine during Holy Week 1984. Word of the 'female Christ' installation caused pandemonium and was a huge controversy in the Episcopal community as well as the Vatican in Rome. Christa was Sandys' first work to become categorized with feminism. Woman is frequently the subject of her pieces.

"In my art," Sandys states, "I have to start from myself. I start from being a woman. To some extent, I make things in my own image."

Edwina Sandys is the daughter of former British Cabinet Minister, Duncan Sandys and Diana Churchill, and the granddaughter of Winston Churchill. While Sandys decided not to enter the political arena of her family, she has inherited the artistic skills from both her father and grandfather.

Woman Free (1989), a figure of woman emerging from a large, rough marble block, was once described by Sandys as what she would create if only able to complete one more sculpture in her lifetime. The vision of Woman Free has evolved into what will be called Millennium Circle upon its completion.

The Millennium Circle sculpture, Sandys' next project, is her most ambitious thus far. Replicating the image of Woman Free in twenty-four individually-carved upright stones, Millennium Circle will stand 18 feet high and approx. 75 feet in diameter, in a Stonehenge-inspired circle. The model for this monumental sculpture completed in 1995 will be on display, for the first time, at the Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery. Sandys has completed Millennium Arch, a full-scale sculpture inspired by a section of the Circle which is permanently installed at the University of Missouri-Rolla.

This exhibition coincides with the release of the book, EDWINA SANDYS ART (Glitterati Incorporated), the first comprehensive volume of Sandys' work. Widely recognized today for large-scale metal and stone sculptures installed in parks, plazas and sculpture gardens around the world, her other works consist of paintings, drawings on paper, mixed media objects, as well granite and marble pieces.

The consistent use of positive and negative images is what many consider to be the signature style of Edwina Sandys. The tone of her work transitions at the drop of a hat from the lighthearted to the profound.

Sandys frequently undertakes controversial issues and uses her art as a voice and contributes to the conversation on many social issues of the day.

Constructed in 1990 from eight sections of the Berlin Wall, Breakthrough is a 32-foot-long sculpture using the positive and negative shapes of man and woman to signify a portal from dictatorship to democracy, and is permanently sited at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. A small model of Marriage Bed (2003), which speaks to the "for better, for worse" portion of the marriage vows, is also included in the selected works for this show. While not currently on display, the life-size Marriage Bed work is part of the Brooklyn Museum of Art's collection.

The show will close on December 10, 2011 and viewing is available by appointment only. For more information, visit www.agcontemporaryart.com or schedule your visit to Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery, 652 Broadway, Floor 2, by calling (646) 344-1325.

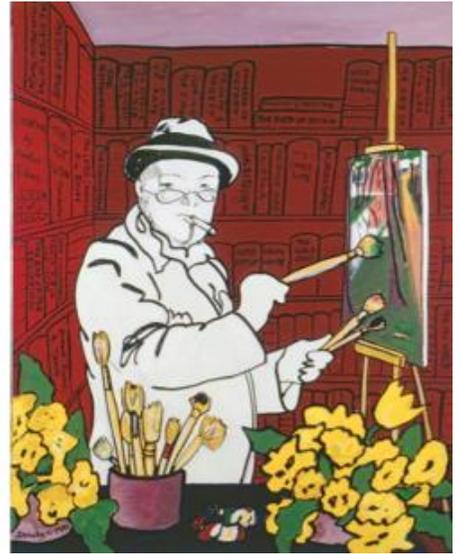


Image Captions (L to R): Eve's Apple, 1998; The Marriage Bed, 2003; Winston at Work, 1991

[Palm Beach Daily News article October 13, 2011](#)

["Edwina Sandys Art" book review from the Huffington Post, October 10, 2011](#)

[Edwina Sandys website](#)

[Edwina Sandys Bio](#)

[Edwina Sandys Art presentation, 14 Images](#)

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