

'Threepenny Opera' Paintings Born Anew

Jan. 20, 2001

See the article in its original context from January 20, 2001, Section B, Page 19 [Buy Reprints](#)

[VIEW ON TIMESMACHINE](#)

TimesMachine is an exclusive benefit for home delivery and digital subscribers.

Recreated by the artist after disappearing in a warehouse theft seven years ago, a series of paintings of scenes from Kurt Weill's "Threepenny Opera" have surfaced at a Manhattan gallery.

The 19 works by the painter and sculptor Arbit Blatas, who died in 1999 at the age of 90, are on view with a film by Mr. Blatas's widow, Regina Resnik, the mezzo-soprano and stage director, through Jan. 27 at the Leubsdorf Art Gallery at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue.

Mr. Blatas, a Lithuanian-born member of the School of Paris, attended the opera's premiere in Berlin in 1928 and based his paintings on a 1950's revival at the Theater de Lys in Greenwich Village. The production starred Weill's widow, Lotte Lenya, and included Ed Asner, Jerry Orbach, Jerry Stiller and Jo Sullivan Loesser. Many of the actors are recognizable in the paintings.

The originals were to go to a Weill museum in Dessau, Germany, before they were stolen from a Manhattan storage facility in 1994. Mr. Blatas recreated them from photographs.

The show coincided with a musical tribute to Weill on Wednesday at the Kaye Playhouse presented and narrated by Ms. Resnik. The program was sung by Jennifer Aylmer, a soprano, and Michael Philip Davis, a tenor, with Kenneth Merrill on piano. Ms. Resnik joined them in an unscripted "Mack the Knife."

A version of this article appears in print on , Section B, Page 19 of the National edition with the headline: 'Threepenny Opera' Paintings Born Anew