

MUSIC

LOCAL SOUNDS

Check out these bands and see them live in their hometowns

Steph Barrak/
Boston. A breezier
Liz Phair.
Record: *Words to
Break Your Heart.*
stephbarrak.com

Peat Biby/Maryland.
Inspired by the sounds on his daily commute.
Record: *On the MARC.* peatbiby.com

Beach House/
Baltimore. Their fourth album, *Bloom*, continues the summer fun. beachhousebaltimore.com

Cheers Elephant/
Philadelphia. Songs to make "your dad's toe tap, your mom's hip shake and your sister's heart throb."
Record: *Like Wind Blows Fire.* cheerselephant.com

Jukebox the Ghost/
Brooklyn. *Safe Travels* reflects the band's move from Philly. jukeboxtheghost.com

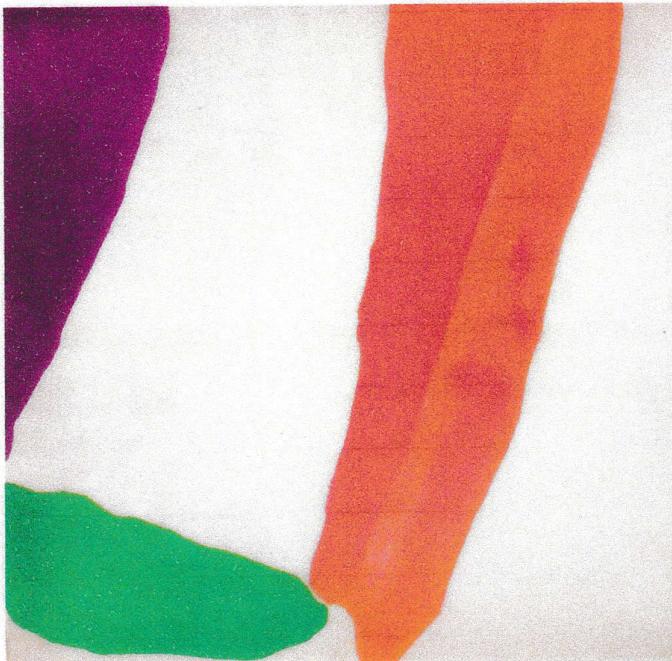
—Greg G. Weber



ARTS

The Art of the Board

The Federal Reserve collection showcases the ultimate marriage of art and commerce



When people think of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C., what comes to mind is the headquarters of the central banking system of the United States. Some may envision the current Federal Reserve Board chairman, Ben Bernanke, engrossed in discussions on the economy: mortgage-backed securities, unemployment rates or even long-term inflation forecasts.

But you may be surprised to learn that the Federal Reserve Board also collects and exhibits art. Behind the imposing marble facade of the historic Marriner S. Eccles building at 20th and C streets, NW, is a collection of more than 1,000 works of art. This collection is a survey of American art dating from the 1830s to the present.

This prized collection contains drawings, paintings, photographs, prints and sculpture by some of the world's top artists, including Robert Rauschenberg, Adolph Gottlieb, Helen Frankenthaler, Arnold Newman, Lee Krasner, Robert Motherwell and Ellsworth Kelly, and lesser-known artists as well.

"No government money is used to purchase art for the Federal Reserve Board Fine Arts Program," says director Stephen Bennett Phillips, who actively cultivates donations for the nonprofit program from private collectors and artists. "All works have been either donated or purchased with funds given by private citizens expressly for the purpose of acquiring

"*Ian Hornak:
Transparent
Barricades*"
on view
through
March 15.

art. Restrictions are placed on gifts from individuals or organizations regulated by the Federal Reserve System."

The program was established in 1975 by former Fed Chairman Arthur F. Burns, in response to a White House directive encouraging federal partnerships with the arts. Part of its mission is to educate board staff and outside visitors about artistic movements and trends in the visual arts. This challenge is met by collaborating with museums, galleries, libraries, artists and collectors to present three annual exhibitions.

Throughout its history, the Fine Arts Program has meticulously organized more than 150 special exhibitions, providing something for every taste. Past shows have included a retrospective on French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840–1917), "Rodin: In His Own Words," and for the sports-minded, "Baseball at the Board," featuring paintings and photographs highlighting the players and traditions of the game in the nation's capital.

On view until March 15 is "Ian Hornak: Transparent Barricades," works by Ian Hornak (1944–2002). They are elaborate, extremely detailed romantic landscapes and still lifes that recall the 17th-century Dutch painting tradition.

Exhibitions are open to the public, and admission is free, but reservations should be made at least five days in advance. finearts@frb.gov.

—Ron Shipmon