



Susan Mareneck has been a member of our Art Department for twelve years, teaching in all three divisions of the school. She has a BA in Studio Art and Political Science from Smith and an MA in Art from the University of Iowa. At Spence, Susan was the first recipient of the Alumnae Association Faculty Recognition Award, which she won in 1986 for her proposal to do a book of engravings and poetry entitled Glancing Off, in collaboration with a poet.

Susan Mareneck

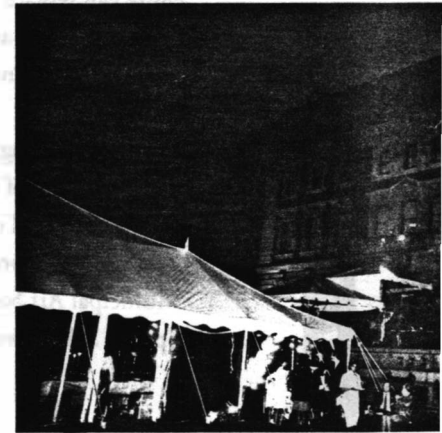
An artist's life is a balance of personal vision and public work. Each teacher of an artistic discipline at Spence is a dedicated artist as well. Clara Spence herself was a professionally trained actress. She created her own stage and her performance is still in progress. As a teacher, she used Shakespeare to illuminate for her students failings as well as strengths of character, dilemmas of circumstance, the intricacies of relationships.

The arts have been an integral part of this school's vision since its founding. In the arts we "practice" in order to gain mastery as well as appreciation. The practice of an art is an important discipline for its own sake: each art has its own logic, structure and curriculum. The artist/teachers at Spence today have the freedom to determine the quality of material taught, the level of skill we want to cultivate and the ability to adjust our expectations to fit each individual student. What we teach is the process of being an artist: the mental, physical and emotional discipline, the interdependence of form and subject, art-forms as

communicators of meaning. Our produce is our student, a healthy, well-rounded individual with a sense of ensemble.

Miss Spence's creative legacy - cultivating one's personal vision - is related to the community and considers it. This commitment to work-that-communicates does not fit the image of the artist as alienated and outside society. Instead, it places the artist at the heart of a culture: an example of the creative process at work, a role model, a teacher. Miss Spence never questioned that women could exercise this power.

A life lived for a reason has a logic which sustains and nourishes it; dedication leads to qualities of resilience and perspective. Acquiring



Even the torrential downpour could not dampen the upbeat mood of the exhibition, as the decorated tent...

NASA established; Explorer I launched from Capt Canaveral

Truman Capote's Breakfast at Tiffany's

"Gigi" wins Academy Award

Popular songs: "The Purple People Eater," "Pink Pedal Pushers"

Cha Cha Cha is the dance of the 50s

Starr's recordings debut on LPs

The Sack Drama

Alaska and Hawaii admitted to the Union

Fidel Castro becomes Premier of Cuba

USSR launches satellite with two monks aboard

Charlotte S. Baker Award and Alumnae Scholarship Fund established

New York City Council studies possibility of becoming 51st state

Richard Rogers' "The Sound of Music"

"Up Front" with Bill Mauldin wins second Pulitzer for Willie and Joe

Jewel Scriven retires after 50 years of running the bookstore



Greensboro, NC sit-in

John F. Kennedy elected President

John Updike's Rabbit, Run; Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird

Hitchcock's "Psycho"

US scientist develops laser technology; birth control becomes available

sensibility is an ongoing process. The practice of the arts - whether in the form of a play, a drawing or a piece of short fiction - demonstrates concretely the fallacy of "overnight success" and "instant gratification" as meaningful goals. Though our contemporary means of communication may be instantaneous, the value of what is communicated depends on the quality of the ideas and skills with which it is created. Those are only nurtured by time.

Giving of oneself to one's work prepares us for caring about larger social entities. Each individual can create symbols of meaning for herself and her community. I know from my own work as a community activist that no pamphlet or brochure can replace a real encounter. Each artist is an activist in making culture and meaning.

My own paintings reflect concern for the quality of our lives in an urban context. To me it seems perfectly appropriate that the Municipal Art Society and The Spence School were founded in the

same year. Both institutions have championed issues which I imagine will come to our attention ever more acutely in the future. These "quality-of-life" concerns will pose our most critical social and educational challenges. Our search **will** intensify for models of supportive environments where people can meet these challenges with sensitivity. I believe we have an important piece of that at Spence now.

A student advisee confided to me in Middle School that she thought she would only, ever, be good at gathering and reciting facts. Even writing a poem, she said, seemed a bit risky. She will graduate this June. In our incubator of confidence and caring, she has not just dabbled at an art, but has been encouraged to pursue it every year. She has felt safe enough to investigate her ability fully. She produced a body of visual work as part of her college advanced placement portfolio that is a true synthesis of personal vision, cultural exploration and hard work.

For me, seeing the product of her persistence, courage and achievement was profoundly moving. It

gives me hope. A music teacher at Spence told me of how she assisted a student to sing on key by helping her to improve not just her voice or her ear but her self-esteem.

The quality of experience possible at Spence illuminates a path. It is our job to share the potential of the single creative life committed to meaningful public work and to continue to reinvest in it over the next 100 years.



The Open House was a great success, thanks to the incredible efforts of Co-Chairs Anne Griffin and Helene Weld.



Margaret Duckett sets up gymnastics program

Alan Shepard makes first US space flight

Cuban Missile Crisis

Second Vatican Council opens in Rome

Rachel Carson's Silent Spring; Charles M. Schulz's Happiness is a Warm Puppy

"A Man for All Seasons" premieres in NY; Taylor and Burton star in "Cleopatra"

NYC's 9 dailies on strike nearly 4 months

First Lower School uniform: green plaid jumpers

JFK assassinated November 22nd

Freedom March on Washington

US and USSR agree on "hot line" from White House to Kremlin

Guggenheim's Pop Art exhibition

Joan Baez and Bob Dylan are popular

Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique; Barbara Tuchman's The Guns of August



Bay of Pigs invasion fails

Joseph Heller's Catch-22; James Baldwin's Nobody Knows My Name

"The Sunday Times" prints its first color supplement



John F. Kennedy's assassination

