

## PRESS RELEASE

## **Displayed: Stages for Sculpture**

May 19 - December 16, 2011



## Photographs of American sculptor Chaim Gross and his work by Arnold Newman, Rudy Burckhardt, Eliot Elisofon and others from the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation Collection

May 5, 2011, New York City-- The Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce a new exhibition, *Displayed: Stages for Sculpture*, featuring approximately 40 photographs that present Chaim Gross and his sculpture. The photographs chart the "stages" in the making of sculpture, and public "stages" displaying Gross's work, such as the 1939 World's Fair, educational carving demonstrations, and commercial print media. The exhibition, curated by the Foundation's archivist Zak Vreeland, features images from the Foundation's collection by renowned photographers Arnold Newman (1918-2006), Eliot Elisofon (1911-73), and Rudy Burckhardt (1914-99). It also includes works by less known, yet equally compelling photographers Robert M. Damora (1912-2009), Soichi Sunami (1885-1971), Walter Rosenblum (1919-2006), and Arnold Eagle (1909-92).

Chaim Gross knew many of these photographers at the beginning of their careers and became particularly close with Arnold Newman and Eliot Elisofon. Gross hired them to record the process of sculpting, both in the privacy of the studio as well as various public venues. The photographers also featured Gross, his house, studio, and sculpture in news stories, fashion spreads, and advertisements in publications such as *Life* and *Glamour*. The exhibition explores this relationship between sculpture and photography. It also considers the convergence of two modes of production: Gross's signature process of hand carving and the mechanical reproduction of the photograph. Of particular interest are photographs of window displays that featured Gross's sculpture in arrangements with mannequins and merchandise from c. 1940-50 at Bonwit Teller, Saks Fifth Avenue and Lane Bryant. These include an eight-window display for Bonwit Teller designed by the preeminent window designer Gene Moore (1910-98).

## **About the Foundation**

The Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York State in 1988. Founded by Chaim Gross (1904-91) and his wife Renee, the Foundation is located in the artist's historic West Village townhouse and longtime studio at 526 LaGuardia Place, adjacent to the NYU campus. The Foundation's initiatives include interdisciplinary programs, special events, and exhibitions organized around topics related to Gross and his contemporaries.

Exhibition opening and viewing of Chaim Gross's sculpture studio on Thursday, May 19, 2011, from 6 to 8 pm; a walkthrough with curator Zak Vreeland will be at 7pm. The exhibition remains on view until December 16, 2011 and is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 5 pm or by appointment. Please contact Susan Fisher at 212-529-4906 or sfisher@rcgrossfoundation.org for more information or visit our website at **www.rcgrossfoundation.org** 

Photograph by Eliot Elisofon. Chaim Gross at work on *Harvest*, commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts, Washington DC, for the France Overseas Building, World's Fair, New York, 1939-40. Used with permission from Elin Elisofon.