

NINA CULLINAN PAPERS

Filed by the Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution. Lent for filming
by Miss Nina Cullinan, Houston, Texas in
March, 1979.

NINA CULLINAN PAPERS

Contents in order of filming:

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3. Photographs

1934, 1935

Caricopandora



Miss Cullinane

All at Aunt Nica,
you were the
beginning of it all.

I'll just say thank
you and love.

Louisa

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

ALEXANDER H. McLANAHAN, PRESIDENT

26th January 1974

Dear Miss Cullinan:

Now that the Museum's Inaugural Opening is over, I want you to know how very much we appreciate your thoughtfulness in giving such a lovely dinner for our out-of-towners. Inevitably, there must have been problems of transportation, identification and so on but our guests were so grateful for your efforts. Thank you for making this crucial contribution to our festivities.

Warmest regards,

Mike

Miss Nina Cullinan
3694 Willowick
Houston, Texas 77019

1001 BISSONNET P. O. BOX 6826 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

POST OFFICE BOX 6826

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006



Miss Nina Cullinan
3694 Willowick
Houston, Texas 77019

GEORGE L. MCGONIGLE

May 20, '74

Miss Nina Cullenan,

Here are the clips
from May FORTUNE
which I mentioned
the other day.

There is no need
to return them nor
to reply.

All best wishes,
George

THE NEW TREASURE-HOUSES OF TEXAS

A recent wave of construction has brought superb public art museums to many American cities that the cognoscenti have usually thought of as being in the cultural boondocks. Some of these museums display outstanding permanent collections; others chiefly provide settings for loaned exhibitions. But all aim at what one museum di-

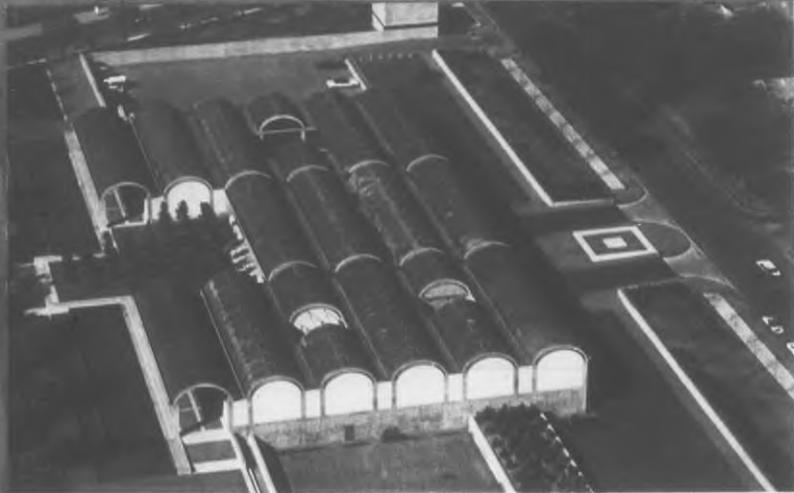
rector calls "the real payoff"—"the confrontation of a single human being with a single work of art."

Three of the best new galleries are in Texas. Fort Worth, Corpus Christi, and Houston turned to great architects to create spectacular settings for art. Some of the results are pictured on this and the following pages.

Photographs by Hans Namuth



At Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum, schoolchildren confront rare twelfth-century frescoes from the chapel of St. André de Bagalance, near Avignon.



A Masterpiece to House Masterpieces in Fort Worth

"Like a row of grain elevators blown over by a tornado"—that's the way the \$6.5-million Kimbell Art Museum, designed by the late Louis I. Kahn, has been described. The roof is made up of lead-sheathed concrete vaults pierced by long skylights. Because of the artful use of reflected natural light, says director Richard F. Brown, "no matter where you go in the building, you are always in touch with what is going on outside." The museum was endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Kay Kimbell. A Fort Worth businessman (and art collector), he died in 1964, leaving seventy-two companies—oil, supermarkets, and much else. His widow has given the Kimbell Art Foundation her share of the community property. The total value of the endowment may exceed \$75 million.

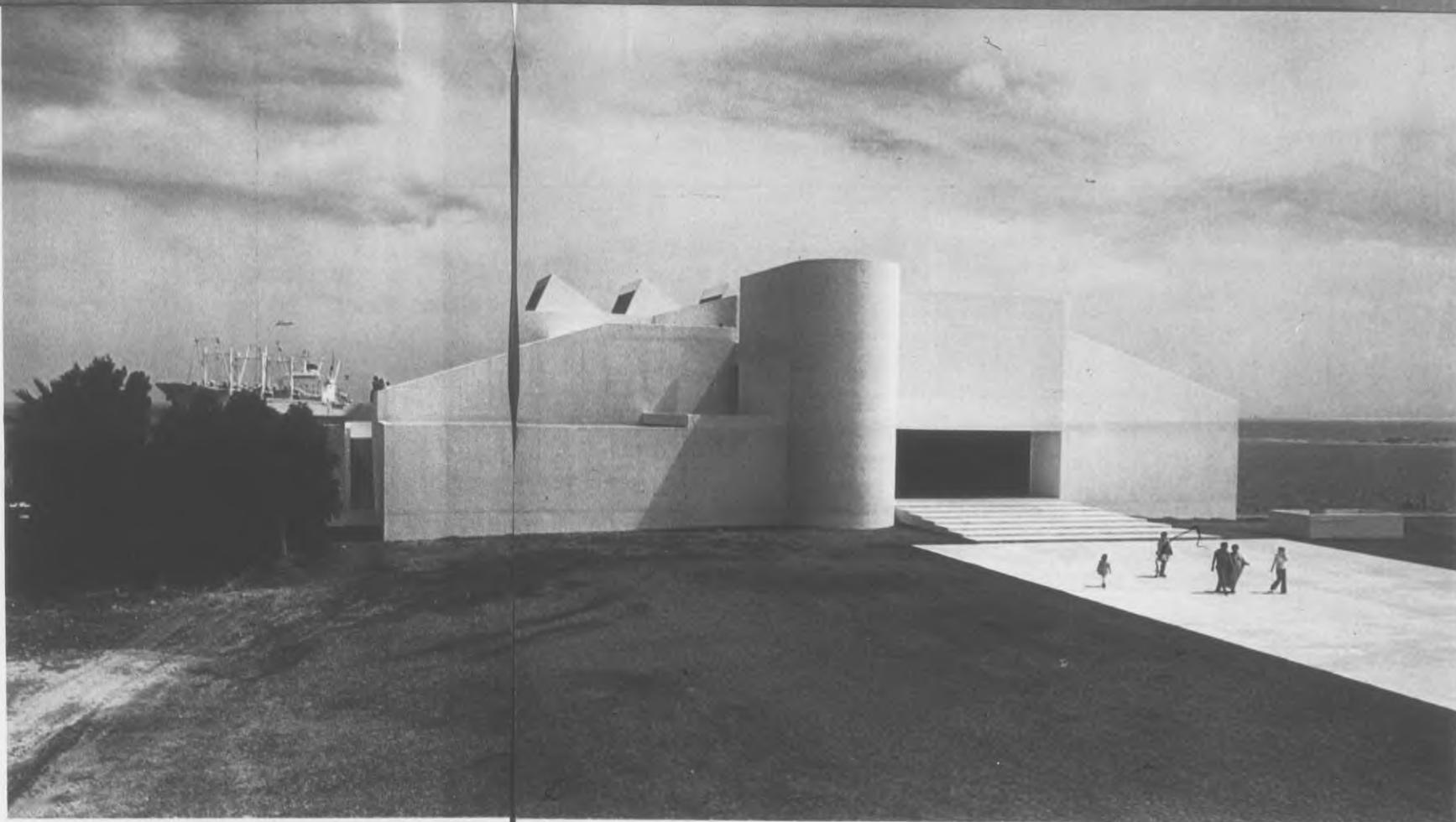
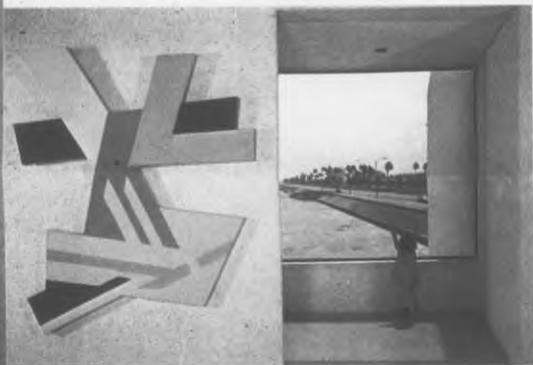




The Kimbell skillfully mingles periods to stress what its director calls "the interpenetration" of cultures. Thus, in the photograph below, a two-thousand-year-old Greco-Roman head is displayed near paintings by Frans Hals, Claude Lorrain, and Sir Joshua Reynolds. One estimate puts the present worth of the collection at more than \$30 million, and the museum is constantly buying more. The Kimbell excludes contemporary works and traditional American art; these are the specialties of two other Fort Worth museums nearby.



**In Corpus Christi, Art
Keeps Company with Ships**



On the banks of the harbor channel at Corpus Christi, the Art Museum of South Texas occupies a fortresslike building designed by architects Philip Johnson and John Burgee. It was completed in 1972 for only \$1.3 million—remarkably little, considering its quality. The 30,000-square-foot structure seems to rise right out of Corpus Christi Bay. The museum owns only a few pieces of art, principally a painting by the contemporary American artist Frank Stella (left, top), and a wooden-box sculpture by Don Judd, shown in the photo at the far right; the large painting behind it is *Skyway*, loaned by the artist Robert Rauschenberg. The building's magnificent spaces are mostly taken up by traveling exhibitions of works like the Rauschenberg constructions (left). The art students at right are sketching in front of paintings by another contemporary American artist, Dan Christensen.





A Graceful Marriage of the Old and New in Houston

The original home of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, opened in 1924, was neoclassical (lower photo at far left), but its new wings are the work of that late master of steel-and-glass, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Cullinan Hall (below) was completed in 1958 and has been called "the most elegant museum space in America"; in the foreground is *Giant Soft Fan*, by pop artist Claes Oldenburg. The Brown Pavilion (below, left), opened in January, was made possible by \$4 million from a foundation established by the Browns of Brown & Root. For the inaugural exhibition, the curators broke up the new wing's 16,600 square feet of almost uninterrupted space with "flats" on which the paintings were hung. The shaped canvases in the photograph at the far left are by Stella. The medieval statue (left) is in the old building; through the doorway to the new wing can be seen *Alpha Delta*, an abstraction by the late American painter Morris Louis.





From the Desk of

MOLLY M. PARKERSON

Dear Friend -

Attached is my letter to
the Nominating Committee of
the Texas Society of Architects
regarding your nomination.

Due to your extreme modesty
(certainly a delightful trait) I
had some difficulty in getting
my facts. I sincerely trust
that my statement is in
order, and if not, you will
forgive me.

affectionately,
Molly

November 8, 1978.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

JIM MCGONN
MAYOR

July 24, 1978

The Nominating Committee
Texas Society of Architects
c/o Houston Chapter, American
Institute of Architects
3121 Buffalo Speedway
Houston, Texas

Gentlemen:

It is with much honor and great privilege that I place before you the nomination of Miss Nina Cullinan for honorary membership to the Texas Society of Architects.

Miss Cullinan was taught the value of responsibility and good stewardship through the fine example set before her by her parents, the late Joseph Stephen and Lucie Holm Cullinan. At a very early age she became quite interested in the acquisition and preservation of our National Parks System, due mainly to her father's close alignment with President Theodore Roosevelt in this movement. To date, that interest prevails, as she serves as a member of the National Parks Board and is actively engaged in seeing this movement nurtured and furthered.

As a young woman, Miss Cullinan was readily recognized by her peers, as she was given the distinct honor of being elected President of the Junior League of Houston for an unprecedented two (2) terms, an honor never before or since conveyed upon any Houston Junior League President. Under her capable leadership and tenure, strides were made by that organization which became the format of the Houston Junior League as we know it today.

Her interest and love for the Arts is evidenced by her past service to the Boards of the Houston Symphony, Ballet, Opera, Contemporary Arts Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts. In the early 1950's Miss Cullinan, seeing the need for the expansion of the Museum of Fine Arts, commissioned the eminent Mies van de Rohe for this work and on October 10, 1958 dedicated the Cullinan Wing of the Museum to her beloved parents. To date,

she continues her service on the Museum of Fine Arts Board as one of its most active and valued members. Other Board interests include the Institute of International Education and the Houston Municipal Art Commission.

The contributions and achievements of this great lady are far too numerous to list. Through her exemplary interest in and love for her City, State and Country, an indelible mark has been made by this remarkable woman who has touched the lives of so many.

Sincerely,

Molly M. Parkerson

Molly M. Parkerson
Cultural Liaison
Office of the Mayor
City of Houston, Texas

MMP/vr

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS



Miss Nina Cullinan
3694 Willowick Road
Houston, Texas 77019



TEXAS
SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTS

2121 Austin National Bank Tower
Austin, Tx. 78701 (512) 478-7386

13 September 1978

Miss Nina Cullinan
3694 Willowick Drive
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Nina:

It is my privilege to officially convey that the Texas Society of Architects has elected you an Honorary Member of the Society. By this designation we seek to recognize you for your innumerable contributions to the quality of life through active and generous involvement in civic and cultural affairs.

The Honorary Membership will be conferred and announced publicly at a special awards luncheon at noon on Friday, November 3, at the San Antonio Convention Center in conjunction with TSA's Annual Meeting. We would be honored to have you as our guest for that occasion and will be sending you details in the near future.

I feel this honor to you is particularly fitting and look forward to congratulating you in person.

Sincerely,

Preston M. Bolton, FAIA
President

PMB/djh



TEXAS
SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTS

2121 Austin National Bank Tower
Austin, Texas 78701

Miss Nina Cullinan
3694 Willowick Drive
Houston, Texas 77027

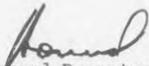
November 3, 1978

Dearest Nina,

If ever there was a deserved award, it's your Honor Membership in the Texas Society of Architects for innumerable contributions to the quality of life.

I don't often take as much of an active part in TSA activity as I should, but this time, I wish I had been president of the organization and in San Antonio to share these joys with you.

With love,



Howard Barnstone

Miss Nina Cullinan
3694 Willowick Drive
Houston, Texas 77019

Post writer wins memorial award from architects

Houston Post art writer Mimi Crossley has been awarded the Texas Society of Architects' John G. Flowers Memorial Award for excellence in architectural reporting and criticism.

She will receive the \$500 first-place prize in the newspaper category Friday during the TSA's annual meeting in San Antonio. Awards also will be presented to two other members of the Texas media. Jane Sumner, a free-lancer whose work "The Park that Peter Built" appeared in Dallas' D magazine, will receive the magazine award. Patsy Swank, producer for KERA-TV in Dallas, will receive the television award for her weekly program *Swank in the Arts*.



Crossley

Four Houston individuals and organizations are among those receiving the society's 1978 Honor Awards to Citizens and Organizations. They are Dr. Philip G. Hoffman, president of the University of Houston, Houston Home and Garden magazine, Houston Urban Bunch, and Nia Cullinan, who was made an honorary member for her "innumerable contributions to the quality of life . . ."

Crossley is receiving her award for a collection of articles. She has been a member of The Post staff for six years.



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AT 1-45 NOF
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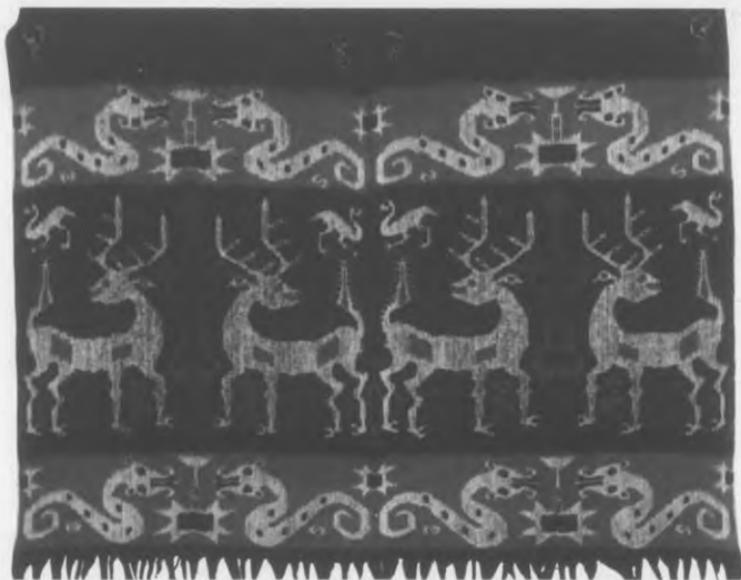


HOWARD BARNSTONE

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77008



Miss Nina Cullinan
3694 Willowick Drive
Houston, Texas 77019



Miss
N. Cullinan
3694 Willowick Road
Houston, Texas 77019

N. Y. Dec. 20, 1978

Dear Miss Cullinan,

Let me send to you my warmest greetings for the holidays and the best wishes for the year to come.

I enjoyed meeting you so very much and found you most considerate to bring along such a nice little luncheon!

With great joy and I receive your kind card and the beautiful of the first edition of the newspaper *Modern*.

福 Season's Greetings

賀 Meilleurs Voeux

福 Felices Fiestas

福 Tozgabruo

How I would have loved to show Cullinan Hall only and its wonderful outside facade in my film! This should tell you how much I share your opinion and feelings. — Please let me know when you come

Georgia Van Der Rohe
New York, New York 10022

to New York
with my very best regards
I am truly yours,
Georgia Rose

★ Ikat Textile from Sumba Island, Indonesia (XIX Century). Courtesy of the Museum für Völkerkunde, Munich (Fed. Rep. of Germany), to benefit UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. ★ Tissu chiné de l'île de Sumba (Indonésie), XIX^e siècle. Reproduction autorisée au profit du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) par le Museum für Völkerkunde, Munich (République fédérale d'Allemagne). ★ Tejido ikat de la Isla Sumba, Indonesia (siglo XIX); cortesía del Museum für Völkerkunde, Munich (República Federal de Alemania). Contribución al UNICEF, el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia. ★ Ткань Икат с острова Сумба - Индонезия (XIX век). С любезного согласия «Музеум фюр Фолькеркунде», Мюнхен (Федеративная Республика Германии), в дар Детскому фонду Организации Объединенных Наций (ЮНИСЕФ). ★ 森巴島伊卡特織錦，印度尼西亞（一九世紀）。德意志聯邦共和國慕尼黑市人類學博物館贈給聯合國兒童基金會。

