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WINTER/SPRING 2019

Brandeis University

STATE OF THE ARTS

A GUIDE TO THE ARTS AT BRANDEIS



Howardena Pindell 1980



MAURICE B. HEXTER, SLEEPING JENNIE (CIRCA 1955)
Chapels Field

Maurice Beck Hexter was born in Cincinnati to German immigrants. He was a lifelong leader in social work and philanthropy, serving as director of the Federation of Jewish Charities and as a member of the United Jewish Campaign commission, which examined social conditions in Russia and Eastern Europe. Hexter played a key role in establishing the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis and served on the university's Board of Trustees. He received an honorary doctorate from Brandeis in 1961.

Relatively late in his life, Hexter took up sculpture as a pastime. He also created the distinctive black granite column outside Usdan Campus Center, titled *Non-Objective*.

— Zoe Messinger '13



RITA BLITT, INSPIRATION (1993)
Epstein Building

Rita Blitt's *Inspiration* is an abstract work created in painted steel. It was a gift to the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis, and marks the entrance to the center at the edge of the Brandeis campus. In 2005, *Inspiration* was a prizewinner in the acclaimed Florence Biennale.

Layered billowing shapes that contrast with the sculpture's rigid steel evoke an abstraction of a woman, yet are also reminiscent of a bird in flight or hair blowing in the wind. Blitt is known for her monumental sculptures that convey swirling energy and movement, as if time has stood still. Her style speaks to all cultures and people, as she touches on the universal themes of humanity, movement and beauty.

— Anna Khazan '13