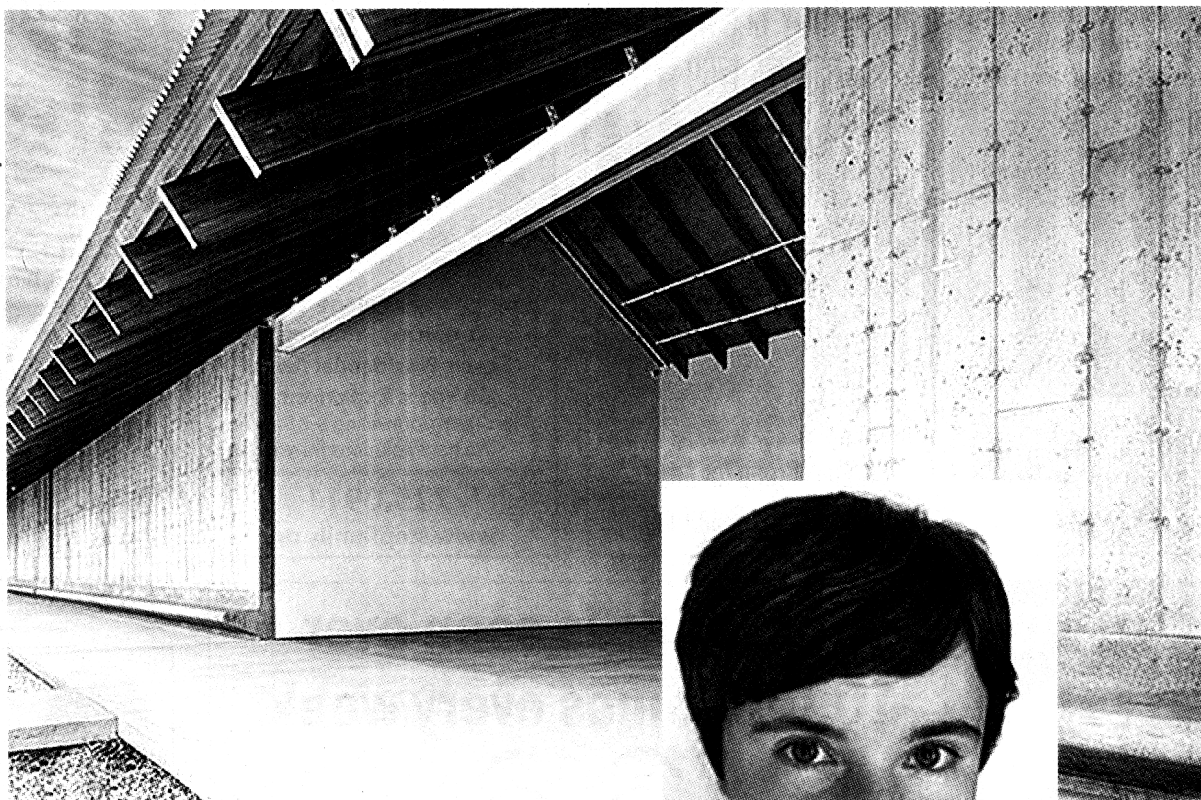


BITS & BANTER



MUSIC

Artistically Composed

Christening The Parrish

Nell Shawn Cohen (left), the 24-year-old composer whose work will open the new Parrish Art Museum (above).

On November 10, when the Parrish Art Museum opens the doors of its new 34,400 square-foot home on Montauk Highway in Water Mill, the community will finally get its first look at a facility that's been years in the planning.

But the new Parrish is not just a place for art.

Within its walls is the 2,400 square-foot Lichtenstein Theater, which can serve as a venue for film, lectures, live shows, seminars and receptions.

On opening weekend, however, the space will be largely given over to performance. Among the artists inaugurating the theater on November 10 are 24-year-old composer Nell Shaw Cohen, a native of Sag Harbor, whose piece "Watercolors," a wind quintet for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon, will be performed.

The piece is inspired by four paintings by renowned watercolorist Charles E. Burchfield (1893-1967). One of the featured paintings, "Glory of Spring (Radiant Spring)" is in the Parrish's permanent collection.

Cohen's 15-minute piece will be performed at the Parrish by The Chelsea Quintet in a darkened room in front of projected images of the paintings, drawing audiences into the artwork through both sight and sound.

"Nell Shaw Cohen deserves superlative praise for her compositions inspired by art," says Nancy Weekly, Head of Collections at the Burchfield Penney Art Center. "Particularly her understanding of Charles E. Burchfield's rapport with nature."

"As a composer of music for chamber, orchestra and voice I've written a number of pieces inviting my audiences to experience visual artworks," adds Cohen. "I believe music can change the way we understand and experience art, and likewise, art can illuminate the narratives and aesthetic qualities of music."

The concert will be presented twice on Saturday, November 10, at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Admission to both the museum and the concert will be free. The new Parrish Art Museum is located at 279 Montauk Highway, Water Mill.