



## **Collectorspace Presents *Herb and Dorothy***

### **A film by Megumi Sasaki, 89 minutes**

24–27 September 2011, Contemporary Istanbul, Booth IKM710

Directed by Megumi Sasaki, *Herb and Dorothy* (2008) tells the extraordinary story of Herbert Vogel, a postal clerk, and Dorothy Vogel, a librarian, who managed to build one of the most important contemporary art collections in history with very modest means. In the early 1960s, when very little attention was paid to Minimalist and Conceptual Art, Herb and Dorothy began purchasing works by unknown artists. Devoting all of Herb's salary to purchase art they liked, and living on Dorothy's paycheck alone, the couple continued collecting artworks guided by two rules: the piece had to be affordable, and it had to be small enough to fit in their one-bedroom rent-controlled Manhattan apartment. Within these limitations, they proved themselves curatorial visionaries. Most of those they supported and befriended went on to become world-renowned artists including Sol LeWitt, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Richard Tuttle, Chuck Close, Robert Mangold, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Lynda Benglis, Pat Steir, Robert Barry, Lucio Pozzi, and Lawrence Weiner.<sup>1</sup>

After years of collecting, the Vogels accumulated a collection that filled every corner of their small apartment. In 1992, they decided to move their entire collection to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and gifted the vast majority of it to the institution. However, they continued collecting. Many of the works they acquired appreciated so significantly over the years that their collection of more than 4,500 artworks is now worth millions of dollars. Still, the Vogels never sold a single piece. In late 2008, they launched *The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States* along with the National Gallery of Art, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The program donated 2,500 works to 50 institutions across 50 US states, and was accompanied by a book of the same name.

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*Herb and Dorothy* received the Golden Starfish Award for the Best Documentary Film and Audience Award from the 2008 Hamptons International Film Festival. It has also received Audience Awards from the 2008 SILVERDOCS Film Festival and the 2009 Philadelphia Cinefest. Palm Springs International Film Festival named *Herb & Dorothy* one of their "Best of Fest" films in 2009.

Collectorspace is a New York based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that makes significant artworks in private collections temporarily public and exhibits them in emerging art centers around the world. Collectorspace opened its first location in Istanbul in September 2011. The primary goal of Collectorspace is to create reference points for new generations of art collectors and to foster critical discussions on collecting.

<sup>1</sup> [www.herbanddorothy.com](http://www.herbanddorothy.com)