

Arts

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Arts Beat

Blinchikoff's Books

In 1984, Nannette Clapman Blinchikoff of Baltimore was a struggling sculptor and candidate for a master of education degree from Towson State University. Since she was having difficulty finding galleries that might be interested in showing her bronze and other metal work, she decided to write a how-to promotional guide for artists as her thesis. That thesis eventually spawned two comprehensive guides for artists and art lovers, "Promoting Fine Art: Washington and Northern Virginia" and "Promoting Fine Art: Baltimore and Maryland."

Each nearly 200-page book includes chapters on the business of art and thorough listings of local art agencies, organizations and galleries as well as comprehensive maps. "I looked to see where art lovers could buy art and where artists could sell art," Blinchikoff said. She included all spaces from "New York-style galleries to a wall in a bookstore."

Blinchikoff, 56, has not issued the final edition of her guides, which have evolved over more than a decade. For this version, she gathered information by visiting each space and dropping off a detailed questionnaire (she saw 55 galleries in two days in Washington). Galleries that didn't respond (such as the District's well-known Baumgartner) were given cursory listings in the addendum.

Now that the latest editions of the books are out, Blinchikoff is eager to get away from the computer and get back to her sculpture and to lecturing about art and business in the area. She hopes her books will help artists "promote their work without compromising their integrity."

Blinchikoff will give a lecture April 25 at 3:30 p.m. at Borders Books in Waldorf. Single books are \$33; the set is \$60. For information, call 410-484-6434.