



*Contemporary Images
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Susan White 215.735.6090

Nancy Spero and Leon Golub: Prints 1950-2001

AT THE PRINT CENTER November 9 – December 21, 2001

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, November 9, 2001 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at The Print Center

PHILADELPHIA, - This November, The Print Center dedicates all three galleries to the exquisite innovative prints of the internationally known artists Nancy Spero (b. 1926) and Leon Golub (b. 1922). Hand-printed on linen, in the three sections, Spero's *Masha Bruskina*, 1995, reveals the story of a 17 year old Russian Jewish girl who courageously attempted to alter her appearance and assimilate as an Aryan to avoid persecution during World War II. In the same gallery, Golub's prints on transparent film depict single figures taken from two of his paintings and from the Baroque painting *Triumph of the Victor* by Franz von Amerling from the Residenzgalerie, Salzburg, Austria. The three figures: two prisoners and a man being interrogated, extend Spero's presentation of persecution, victimization and violence.

Together Golub's and Spero's work advances a unique and complex dialogue on gender division and the vicissitudes of power. Spero's 67' long banner, *A Cycle of Time*, spirals down from the vaulted gallery ceiling. Hand-printed on silk, the banner depicts empowered images of female figures and deities whose voices have been absent or silenced throughout history. Juxtaposed to Spero's celebration of women are Golub's prints from 1950 to the present. This mini retrospective best exemplifies Golub's experimentation with various printmaking techniques: engraving, lithography and screenprinting and his examination of political violence and oppression through an ongoing visual dialogue with issues of masculinity. Golub addresses intolerance, torture and discrimination always from the vantage point of the innocent victim, as succinctly summarized in the title: *Men are not for burning*. Golub often uses the sphinx, a boarder creature, to represent the dual nature of humans and the lion to embody aggression and power.

Related Programming: A Gallery Tour and Slide Lecture with Nancy Spero and Leon Golub on Friday, December 7, 2001. The gallery tour will begin at 5:30 p.m. at The Print Center. The artists will give their slide lecture at 7:00 in the CBS Auditorium, University of the Arts.

Located at 1614 Latimer Street, in the heart of Center City Philadelphia, The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs for art professionals and amateurs; a gallery store; and special events.

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