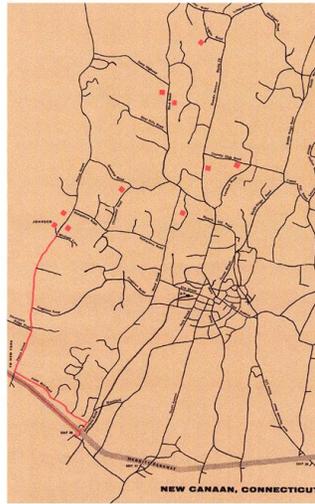




Centered Rhyme, 1967. Acrylic on canvas. 60 x 60 inches.
Courtesy of the artist and P1, New York



Map of New Canaan, Connecticut, 1962.
Courtesy of the artist and P1, New York



Signage for Brasserie, 375 Park Avenue, 1957.
Courtesy of the artist and P1, New York

For Immediate Release

Elaine Lustig Cohen

June 13 - September 28, 2015

The Glass House presents the first survey to explore the relationship between the early paintings and pioneering design projects of Elaine Lustig Cohen. Based in New York, Lustig Cohen has been highly regarded as a graphic designer, artist, and rare book dealer throughout her career, which spans over fifty years. On view in the Painting Gallery, the exhibition includes a selection of her paintings from the 1960s and 1970s as well as examples of her multiyear collaboration with architect Philip Johnson, among other projects.

In 1955, Lustig Cohen began a graphic design practice that integrated the aesthetics of European modernism within a distinctly American visual idiom for her diverse clientele of publishers, corporations, cultural institutions, and architects. Her first client was Johnson, who commissioned her to work on the lettering and signage for the Seagram Building. The two forged an important bond that resulted in a variety of projects for the Glass House, Yale University, Lincoln Center, the Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute, and the Sheldon Museum of Art, among others, as well as commissions from Johnson's clients, including John de Menil and the Schlumberger oil company.

As a painter, Lustig Cohen developed a hard-edged style in the 1960s and 1970s that engaged the physicality of the canvas' flat surface. Employing a simplified formal language that includes solid colors and abstract geometric shapes, her paintings allude to her design work as well as the contemporaneous practices of other artists who strove to dissolve the barriers between painting and objecthood.



A Site of the
**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**

The exhibition is organized by Cole Akers, Curator and Special Projects Manager at the Glass House.

Special thanks to Prem Krishnamurthy and P!, New York.

Elaine Lustig Cohen (b. 1927, Jersey City, New Jersey) studied art at the University of Southern California. Her first solo exhibitions in New York were held at John Bernard Meyers Gallery (1970, 1972, 1973), Galerie Denise René (1975), and Mary Boone Gallery (1979), where she was the first woman to have a solo exhibition. Since then, her work has been presented at Exit Art (1985), Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum (1995), Julie Saul Gallery (2005), the Rochester Institute of Technology (2014), and P! (2014), among other venues. As a graphic designer, her clients have included the Jewish Museum, New Directions, the Whitney Museum, and architects Eero Saarinen, Richard Meier, and Philip Johnson. In 1973, she co-founded the influential bookstore Ex Libris, which specialized in 20th century avant-garde books, periodicals, ephemera, and posters. Work by Lustig Cohen is held in numerous public and private collections, and she is the recipient of the 2011 AIGA Medal for her life's work in design.

The Glass House, built between 1949 and 1995 by architect Philip Johnson, is a National Trust Historic Site located in New Canaan, CT. The pastoral 49-acre landscape comprises fourteen structures, including the Glass House (1949), and features a permanent collection of 20th-century painting and sculpture, along with temporary exhibitions. The tour season runs from May to November and advance reservations are required.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.PreservationNation.org) is a privately funded nonprofit organization that works to save America's historic places to enrich our future, reimagining historic sites for the 21st century. The guiding principle of this initiative is that historic sites must be dynamic, relevant, and evolving in order to foster an understanding of history and culture that is critical, sensory, and layered.

Visitor Information:

The Glass House Visitor Center and Design Store
199 Elm Street, New Canaan, CT 06840

Open Thursday – Monday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$25, including a tour of the site.

For general information, please call 203.594.9884 or visit the Glass House online:

www.theglasshouse.org

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