

The Forbes Galleries
60 Fifth Avenue at 12th Street
New York, NY 10011

Mass, Power and Delicacy: Works on Paper by Antonio Masi
The Golden Age of America's Bridges (1883-1964)

Wednesday, April 21 to Saturday, July 10, 2010

Masi's unique collection reveals a classically American story of grit, genius, and achievement



Flag, George Washington Bridge, 2008
Watercolor and body color: 40 ¼ x 60 ¼ in.

View from Below, 2007, Williamsburg Bridge
Watercolor and body color: 30 x 22 in.

New York City—The Forbes Galleries will exhibit award-winning artist Antonio Masi's paintings of the nine great long-span bridges of New York City. The exhibition will run from Wednesday, April 21 to Saturday, July 10, 2010. No artist has ever painted *all* nine of these great bridges. Arguably no artist has ever painted these bridges with such mood and artistry.

The bridges are the Brooklyn Bridge (1883), the Williamsburg (1903), the Queensboro and the Manhattan (1909), the George Washington (1931), the Triborough (1936)—renamed the Robert F. Kennedy in 2008, the Bronx-Whitestone (1939), the Throgs-Neck (1961), and the Verrazano-Narrows (1964). The bridges, constructed during America's Golden Age of bridge building (1883-1964), inspired engineers to build similar bridges across America; the result was a period of unprecedented economic prosperity as well as social and cultural growth.

The Golden Age bridges were built almost entirely by immigrant engineers, architects and laborers, whose deeds symbolize America's grit, genius, and accomplishments. Masi's story, too, is an immigrant tale. In 1947, at age 7, he emigrated with his family from Italy to New York City. Fifty years earlier, Masi's grandfather had hauled steel as a part of the workforce that built the Queensboro Bridge. The story of Masi's grandfather was retold many times in the Masi family. Upon his arrival in New York City, Masi, fascinated by the beauty of the city's iconic bridges, knew that one day he would paint them. But it wasn't until 2000—at age 60—that Masi was finally able to fulfill his boyhood dream.

"For a lot of people," says Holly Davis, associate editor of *The Artist's Magazine*, "a bridge in a city would not be a beautiful thing. But in Antonio's paintings, I detect *awe*."

The Forbes Galleries are free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays are reserved for unguided group tours. Reservations can be made by calling 212.206.5549. For more visitor information, please visit www.forbesgalleries.com or call 212.206.5548.

For more information about Antonio Masi or to set up interviews, please contact Joan M. Dim, 917.282.8435, joan.dim@nyu.edu or Elizabeth Wasden, 212.367.4157, ewasden@forbes.com. Antonio Masi's Web site is antoniomasi.com.