

# New Britain Museum of American Art

## NEW/NOW: NINA BENTLEY

*Unwelld: New Assemblage Work*

March 3 – April 29, 2001

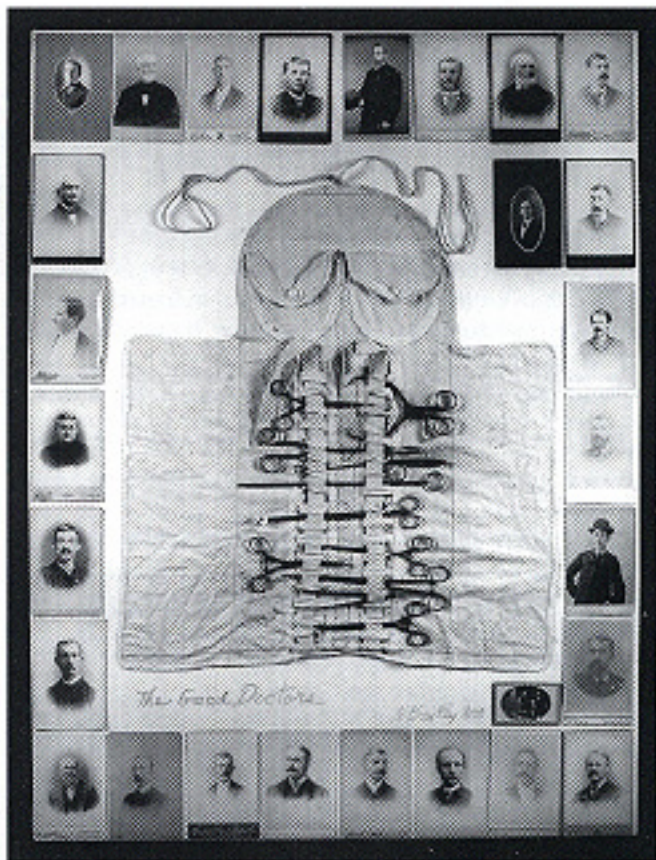
Nina Bentley merges ideas with objects to produce thought-provoking, often satirical, works of art. Her assemblage boxes are presented with an ironic sense of humor as she pokes fun at contemporary "truths."

Bentley defines herself as "an inveterate collector of stuff" who combines her passions of art and collecting. "I have never been satisfied by a simple surface," Bentley explains. "My collages of the '60s grew thicker and thicker. By the '80s, I had arrived at assemblage shoes, and now, boxes and suitcases (baggage)," she says.

Exploring multi-layers of meaning is the "more significant intellectual thrust of my work," Bentley adds. "I create art to gain some perspective on the world, while trying to retain a sense of humor."

Bentley attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she studied fine art, including sculpture. She graduated in 1962 with a BA in history. Her interest in art and society has found consistent expression in her art throughout the years.

A resident of Westport, Conn., she serves as a member of the Westport Arts Center's board of directors. She has curated shows in New York and Connecticut, including "America," "Woman's Work," "Piece of Cake," and "Times Up" for the Westport Art Center.



Nina Bentley, *The Good Doctors*, 2001, mixed media, 36" x 48",  
Collection of the artist.