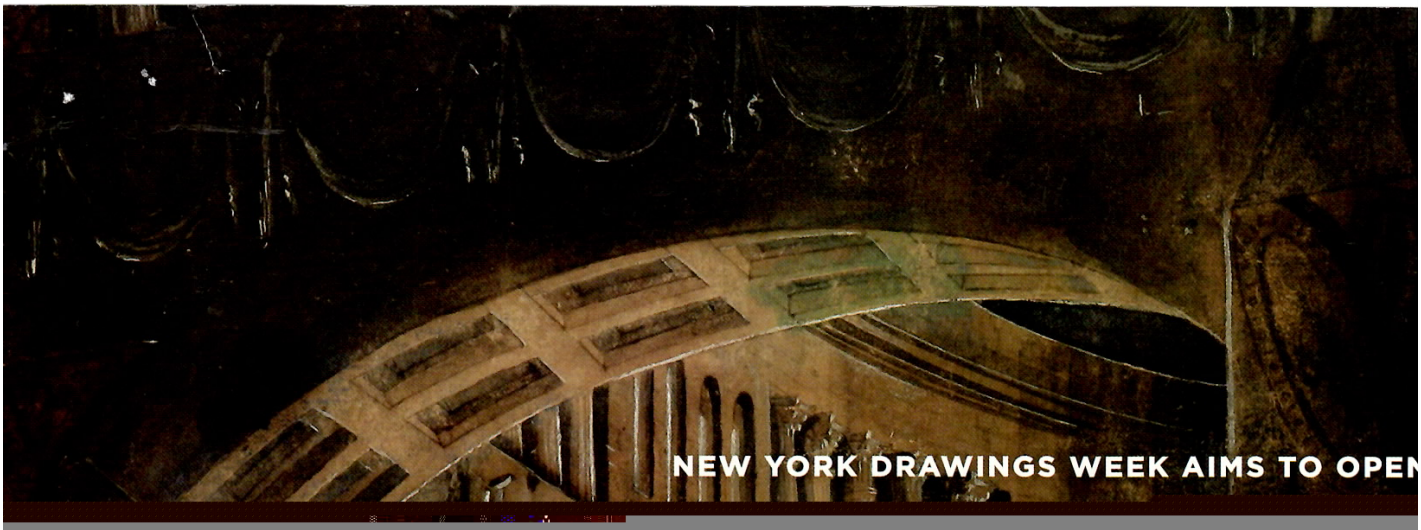


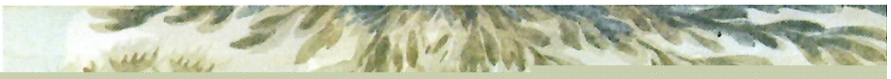
NEW YORK DRAWINGS WEEK AIMS TO OPEN

Toward the end of January each year for more than a decade, New York drawings dealers on the Upper East Side (as well as a handful of their visiting out-of-town and European colleagues) have opened exhibitions to coincide with the week of master drawings sales at Sotheby's and Christie's.

The weather conditions for which the city is notorious at this time of year (the locals excavating their vehicles from monstrous snow drifts or skiing down Fifth Avenue to midtown offices are among the seasonal entertainments) deter all but the most dedicated drawings dealers, curators, scholars and collectors, who come not only to attend the sales and openings, and, of course, to buy art, but also to visit the exhibitions and scholarly events hosted by some of the city's museums during the week (see "Exhibitions" sidebar, p. 86).

Just a year ago, many of the gallery shows were taken in hand by the New York dealer Margot Gordon and the London dealer Crispian Riley-Smith, who together launched an official event called Master Drawings New York, modeled on the July event in London that Riley-Smith introduced in 2001. As Gordon describes it, "It seemed a perfect time to do a similar event in New York. We decided to

COURTES



The message dealers want to communicate is that they genuinely want to change people's experience