

Humor's Edge: Cartoons by Ann Telnaes. Harry Katz and Martha Kennedy. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, June 3-September 4, 2004.

Ann Telnaes, a former animator, is one of the two women winners of the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning. She is also one of the cartoonists rotating on a weekly basis in the King Features strip, "*Six Chix*." Her style is extremely distinctive, filled with bold black lines of varying thickness, of which she is obviously always in control.

This exhibit of 57 pieces, spurred by a donation of 81 pieces, includes mostly editorial cartoons, but also has some pieces from "*Six Chix*" and an excellent caricature of Katherine Hepburn from *Women's eNews*. The exhibit is mounted in a side hall of the grand Jefferson Building, directly opposite an exhibit on *Brown v. Board of Education*, which includes original editorial cartoons by Herblock and Mauldin.

Telnaes works at a very large size, with her originals being roughly the size of a newspaper, far bigger than the sadly-shrunken printed size. The exhibit is divided into sections: "Put It On Your Tab" is named for a cartoon showing President Bush and rich white men at a dinner, telling the waitress presenting a bill that reads "\$480 Billion Deficit" to "Put it on your tab." This part deals with domestic politics and policies, and includes a biting caricature of Senator Robert Byrd. The second section, "Pulitzer Prize-Winning Cartoons," has four images that enabled her to win the Prize in 2001. Three are original pen and ink, while one is a print from a digital scan. Telnaes appears to color on the computer, and all the colored works in the exhibit are prints. "The World According to W" is a large section of cartoons about the President and his administration, including the Patriot Act and civil liberties. The final section, "Happily Ever After?" focusses on "Six Chix" and Telnaes' recurring motif of using fairy tales for commentary on modern life.

Telnaes is one of the best editorial cartoonists working today, and her original artwork is clean and aesthetically-pleasing. Very little of the work that goes into the cartoons can actually be seen in the original, unlike Herblock's layers of whiteout and paste-overs. This excellent exhibit is well-worth seeing, and is accompanied by a 14-page full color brochure, a catalogue from Pomegranate Press, and a website at <<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/telnaes/>>.

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