

*Mrs. Beismann*

# ART

## Penthouse publisher's collection on view

By NANCY A. RUHLING  
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NEW YORK — Up the palatial marble staircase carpeted in crimson, past the indoor swimming pool that looks as though it were built for a Roman emperor, there's a small — that is, merely mini-mansion-size — wood-paneled library where Hans Holbein's "Portrait of King Henry VIII" hangs beneath a brass chandelier with bordo-red glass shades.

From his paneled perch, the good Henry, he of the six wives, perpetually gazes upon the lord of this castle, Penthouse Publisher Bob Guccione. Guccione, one of his Rhodesian Ridgebacks lying regally at his feet, glances at the dozen or so masterpieces leaning against the sofas and notes that the walls of his seven-story Manhattan townhouse (New York City's largest private residence, according to him) have been, in his words, "denuded."

For the first time, Guccione and his wife, Kathy Keeton, will be putting their entire art collection — nearly 80 masterpieces, including Holbein's "Henry" and major works by Botticelli, Degas, El Greco, Renoir, Matisse and Modigliani — on public display.

"From Botticelli to Matisse: Masterpieces of the Guccione Collection" opened at the Nassau County



**Guccione**

Museum of Art in Roslyn Harbor, N.Y., last Sunday and runs through March 20.

When the Long Island museum asked to borrow some works for the show, Guccione says he thought it was "a wonderful opportunity for people in the area to see the whole collection."

Constance Schwartz, museum director, calls the Guccione collection "magnificent," saying she became aware of its high caliber last year when she visited his house to se-

cure the loan of Degas' "Seated Bather Drying Herself" for another museum show. "Guccione," she says, "will try to get the best representative (work) of the artist that is available." Unlike some serious collectors, Guccione doesn't work with an art adviser. "Every painting is handpicked by me," he says.

The exhibition is a first not only for the Gucciones but for the museum, where Old Masters have never before been on view. Schwartz says that the collection, which she calls "the most diverse and most valuable" ever mounted at the museum, includes four particularly notable works: Modigliani's "Boy With Red Hair"; Matisse's "Elena"; and Degas' "La Toilette" and "Seated Bather." Also included are Picasso's "Portrait of Paulo," and one of Botticelli's depictions of the "Birth of Venus."