



American Federation of Arts

For Immediate Release

Contact: 212.988.7700

**JOHN CURRIN, CELEBRATED FIGURATIVE PAINTER, WILL SPEAK ABOUT HIS WORK AT
ArtTalks, A NEW PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2003

New York, NY, (February 27, 2003) — **John Currin**, who is much admired for his figurative paintings, will speak about his work at **ArtTalks**, a new public lecture series developed and presented by the American Federation of Arts. Designed as intimate gatherings, these informal lectures present influential figures in the art world including artists, collectors, museum directors, curators, and gallery owners. Each presentation will be followed by a discussion and private reception. John Currin will speak on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the American Federation of Arts, 41 East 65th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues, in New York. Admission is \$15 and \$10 for AFA members and students with valid identification. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. For reservations, please call 212-988-7700 ext. 41. ArtTalks is made possible by The Donald M. Cox New Initiative Fund.

American artist John Currin emerged in the early 1990s along with a wave of other young artists who invigorated figurative art while questioning its conventions. He uses Northern Renaissance and early Mannerist painting as well as the pages of popular fashion magazines as sources for his masterfully crafted paintings. Synthesizing historical and contemporary styles, Currin creates evocative images that examine the tradition of painting and the role of the female nude in art. His portraits of women, who are often placed in unusual narrative situations, respond to the venerable yet problematic tradition of female representation both pre- and post-feminism.

John Currin's paintings have been shown widely in group and solo exhibitions since 1989. Group shows have included *Wild Walls*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, and Institute of Contemporary Art, London (1995); *Narcissism: Artists Reflect Themselves*, California Center for the Arts, Escondido (1996); *Projects 60: John Currin, Elizabeth Peyton, Luc Tuymans*, Museum of Modern Art, New York; and *Heart, Body, Mind, Soul: American Art in the 1990s*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1997); *The Tate Gallery Selects: American Realities—Views from Abroad*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1997); *Pop Surrealism*, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut, and *Young Americans 2: New American Art*, Saatchi Gallery, London (1998); and *John Currin and Elizabeth Peyton*, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and *Examining Pictures: exhibiting paintings*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (1999). Solo exhibitions of Currin's paintings have been presented at Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York (1992, 1994, 1995, 1997); Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain du Limousin, Limoges (1995); and Regen Projects, Los Angeles (1996, 1999).

For nearly one hundred years, the **American Federations of Arts (AFA)** has originated and developed traveling art exhibitions in partnership with member museums both in the United States and abroad. Under the leadership of Director Julia Brown, the AFA serves the museum community via its exhibition, education, and professional development programs, including Directors Forum, Curators Forum, and AFA ArtTalks. Current and upcoming AFA exhibitions include *The Sensuous and the Sacred: Chola Bronzes from South India; Degas and the Dance; Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from The British Museum*; and *Millet to Matisse: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century French Painting from Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow*. For additional information visit the AFA's Web site at www.afaweb.org.

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