



American Federation of Arts

For Immediate Release

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS (AFA) TO HONOR PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART DIRECTOR, ANNE D'HARNONCOURT, AND ACCLAIMED ARTIST/ARCHITECT, MAYA LIN, AT 2002 FALL GALA

September 10, 2002 (New York, NY) -- The **American Federation of Arts (AFA)**, a leading arts organization and originator of acclaimed exhibitions, is proud to announce its 2002 gala honorees, **Anne d'Harnoncourt**, The George D. Widener Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA), and **Maya Lin**, celebrated artist/architect, best known for her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Ms. d'Harnoncourt and Ms. Lin will receive the AFA's **Cultural Leadership Award** at the **Annual Fall Gala** on **Tuesday, October 15, 2002**, at the **Waldorf=Astoria**, Starlight Roof, 301 Park Avenue, New York. Co-chaired by David and Linda Supino, the award ceremony will begin with a cocktail reception at 7:00 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing at 8:00 p.m. with music provided by the Peter Duchin Orchestra. For additional press information, contact Heidi Riegler at (212) 988-7700, ext. 29.

This year's AFA gala promises to be an entertaining evening. Invited guests include Benefit Committee members Melva Bucksbaum and Raymond Learsy, Charles Cowles, Arthur D. Emil, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, Gilbert and Ann Kinney, Emily Fisher Landau, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Lauder, Frederick and Jan Mayer, David Rockefeller, and Hannelore Schulhof, as well as other arts community leaders, artists, and art historians. The festivities will be held in the newly renovated Starlight Roof at the Waldorf-Astoria. The stylish Art Deco atmosphere and architecture will provide a wonderful setting for a night of live jazz and swing music performed by the Peter Duchin Orchestra.

For nearly a hundred years, the American Federations of Arts has originated and developed travelling art exhibitions in partnership with member museums both nationally and internationally. Under the leadership of Director Julia Brown, the AFA serves the museum community via its exhibition, education, and professional development programs. Current and upcoming AFA exhibitions include *Degas and the Dance*; *Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum*; *The Sensual and the Sacred: Chola Bronzes from South India*; *American Modern, 1925-1949: Design for a New Age*; and *Millet to Matisse: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century French Painting from Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow*.

The AFA's Cultural Leadership Award is given annually to artists, museum directors, and arts philanthropists in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the museum community. Previous honorees have included artist Ellsworth Kelly, the late Director Emeritus of the National Gallery of Art Carter Brown, and arts philanthropist Iris Cantor, among many others. Anne d'Harnoncourt, who has gained widespread recognition as an art historian and museum administrator, began her career and longtime association with the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) in 1967, culminating in her current position as Director and CEO. Under her leadership, the PMA has presented critically acclaimed exhibitions including *Rodin and Michelangelo: A Study in Artistic Interpretation*, *Brancusi*, and *Thomas Eakins*. George M. Cheston, former president of the board and honorary trustee of the PMA, will introduce Ms. d'Harnoncourt.

Maya Lin, the artist/architect best known for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and author of the recently published book, *Boundaries*, has gained international attention for the unique style of her sculpture and architectural projects, including *Wave Hill* at the University of Michigan; *Timetable* at Stanford University, and *The Women's Table* at Yale University. Robert A. M. Stern, Dean of the Yale School of Architecture, will introduce Ms. Lin.