



For Immediate Release

American Federation of Arts Honors Marina Abramović and Earl A. Powell III with Cultural Leadership Awards at Fall Gala

New York, NY (September 15, 2011) — The American Federation of Arts (AFA) will hold its 2011 Fall Gala and Cultural Leadership Awards on Wednesday, October 26, at the Metropolitan Club in New York. This year, the AFA will honor renowned performance artist Marina Abramović and National Gallery of Art Director Earl A. Powell III. They will be introduced by MoMA PS1 Director Klaus Biesenbach and former Metropolitan Museum of Art Director Philippe de Montebello, respectively.

About the Honorees:



Photo Antony Crook



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Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington

Marina Abramović: A pioneer in the use of performance as a visual art form, Marina Abramović has had a prolific career that includes interventions and sound pieces, video works, installations, photographs, solo performances, and collaborative performances made with Ulay (Uwe Laysiepen). With the human body as both her subject and medium, she has challenged audiences, critics, historians, and fellow artists with her passionate and extreme art for more than four decades. Abramović's 2010 exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, *The Artist Is Present*—which included a durational piece in which she performed for more than seven hundred hours—marked the first retrospective of a performance artist at a major museum institution. A woman who makes no distinction between life and art, Abramović is one of the most compelling artists of our time.

Earl A. Powell III: An art historian admired as both a specialist and a generalist, Earl A. Powell III has a long and distinguished history in the arts. Only the fourth director of the National Gallery of Art, Powell has overseen an extraordinary array of projects. During his tenure, the gallery has added more than 29,000 works of art to its collection, broadened the programmatic scope of conservation and scientific research, created innovative programs for children and families, opened a Sculpture Garden and a suite of sculpture galleries, and presented more than 250 exhibitions, including the highly regarded exhibitions on ancient Egypt, Van Gogh, and Vermeer, as well as rotating shows in galleries dedicated to works on paper, photographs, and art since mid-century. In his previous position as Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Powell presided over a period of unprecedented expansion in the building, programs, and attendance. Powell is widely admired for his imaginative and energetic leadership.

About the Event:

The gala will be held at the elegant and historic Metropolitan Club, founded by J. P. Morgan in 1891 and located at One East 60th Street at Fifth Avenue in New York. Distinguished guests will include AFA trustees, patrons, artists, and other leading members and supporters of the art and museum communities. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 8 p.m. A raffle will be held at the gala, with artworks generously donated by April Gornik and Richard Bell. The raffle drawings will be at 9:45 p.m., followed by dancing and cocktails at 10:00 p.m. Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance or at the gala. Participants need not be present to win. All proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will benefit the AFA's exhibitions and programming. Gala and/or raffle tickets can be purchased at afaweb.org/gala.html. For further information, visit our [website](#) or contact Tiffany Pak at tpak@afaweb.org or call 212.988.7700 x247.

The AFA's Cultural Leadership Award is presented annually to artists, museum leaders, and philanthropists in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the art and museum community. Previous honorees include Sheikh Sultan Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Thomas Krens, and Frank O. Gehry (2007); Cargill and Donna MacMillan (2006); John Bryan, Shirin Neshat, and James Wood (2004); Susan Weber Soros and Bill Viola (2003); Anne d'Harnoncourt and Maya Lin (2002); Stephanie French, Ellsworth Kelly, and John Walsh (2001); Jan Cowles and Serena Rattazzi (2000); Jan Perry Mayer (1999); Iris Cantor (1998); Henry Luce III (1997); Lee Hills (1996); Elizabeth Blake and Roy Neuberger (1995); Richard Oldenburg (1994); Evan H. Turner (1993); and J. Carter Brown (1992).

The roster of distinguished individuals and organizations that are, to date, an official part of the gala celebration include the following:

Gala Chairs

Lydia Fenet | Clare McKeon | Capera Ryan

Honorary Chair

Elizabeth Blake

Gala Host Committee

Bérangère & Julian Allen | Jennifer Argenti | Christa Carr | Catterton Partners
Stephanie & Frederick Clark | Mike Clifford & Robert Levy | Charles Cowles
Lindsay Macdonald Danckwerth | Yasaman & Vuk Djunic | Alexandra & David Drucker
James Epstein | Charlotte N. Eyerman | Brian Ferriso | Leslie & Tom L. Freudenheim
Betty Gertz | Rachel Carr Goulding | William M. Griswold & Christopher S. Malstead
Anthony Hirschel | Brent Rowan Hyder | Pamela A.M. Johnson | Ann & Gilbert H. Kinney
Stephanie R. & Jody La Nasa | Jo Carole & Ronald S. Lauder | Elizabeth & George Lewis
Margot & Robert Linton NancyJane & Jeffrey M. Loewy | Kati Lovaas & David Teiger
Susan & Glenn D. Lowry | Sarah & Alec Machiels | Christy MacLear | Martha MacMillan
Merrill & Chris Mahan | Liz & David McCreery | Karla McKinley | Joe Minton
Kimerly Rorschach | Jacqueline Sackler Victoria & Roger Sant | Hannelore B. Schulhof
Lindsay Smith & Jason Herrick | Susan & Michael Solovay | Katie & Jonah Sonnenborn
Bj Topol | Laura Zukerman

About the American Federation of Arts

The American Federation of Arts is a nonprofit institution that organizes art exhibitions for presentation in museums around the world, publishes exhibition catalogues, and develops various educational programs. The AFA's mission is to enrich the public's experience of art and understanding of culture by organizing and traveling a diverse offering of exhibitions embracing all aspects of art history. Current and upcoming AFA exhibitions include *Richard Bell: Uz vs. Them; Gainsborough, Rembrandt, Van Dyck: The Treasures of Kenwood House, London; Rolling Hills, Satanic Mills: The British Passion for Landscape; Gods and Heroes: Masterpieces from the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris; and Matisse as Printmaker: Works from the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation*. For more information about the AFA's exhibitions, publications, artist talks, and online resources, visit www.afaweb.org.

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