



American Federation of Arts

For Immediate Release

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THE AFA ANNOUNCES THIRD ANNUAL CURATORS FORUM, JUNE 15–JUNE 17, 2003

New York, NY, May 8, 2003 –The **American Federation of Arts (AFA)** annual **Curators Forum** will take place in New York City Sunday, June 15, through Tuesday, June 17, 2003. Now in its third year, this two-and-a-half-day conference explores critical issues affecting art museum curators. The conference will begin with a reception at the Whitney Museum of American Art on Sunday evening, followed by discussion sessions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Philippe de Montebello, Director, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and keynote speaker **Lawrence Rinder**, the Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Curator of Contemporary Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, will convene the conference on Monday. Mr. Rinder's keynote address, entitled, "Conscience and Controversy: Curating *The American Effect*," will touch on various aspects of the curatorial process leading up to the presentation of the *The American Effect*, an exhibition exploring global perspectives on the United States from 1990 and to be on view at the Whitney Museum of Art July 3–October 12, 2003. Both, the welcome and keynote remarks are open to media representatives. To make media reservations, please contact 212.998.7700 ext. 29. (For program details, please see the attached schedule).

The program topics include "Curators and Publishers: Shared Expectations?"—a discussion concerning the expectations of publishers, museum publications department staff, and curators in the development of catalogues for exhibitions and collections; "Curators and Educators: Working Through Creative Tensions"—an examination of the working relationships between curators and museum educators; "Philanthropic Support and the Art Museum"—a debate on how the goals of philanthropists affect their support of a museum; and "What's Next for Curators?"— a talk with former museum curators who have pursued other careers in the art world.

Curators Forum is a professional conference that speaks to the needs of curators nationwide to exchange views and to address the challenges they face in a changing museum environment. The only program of its kind, Curators Forum is open to curators from art museums of all sizes. It was created three years ago, after the AFA conducted a survey that revealed a vital need for this professional conference, in large part because the traditional role of curators has changed dramatically in recent years. Cultural influences and economic demands have transformed the way exhibitions are developed, interpreted, marketed, and presented.

The **American Federation of Arts (AFA)** conceives and develops art exhibitions, publishes exhibition catalogues, and coordinates educational and professional development programs, including Directors Forum and Curators Forum. The AFA also organizes symposia in conjunction with select exhibitions, and recently launched ArtTalks, a public lecture series featuring artists, museum directors, and collectors. Established by an act of Congress in 1909, the AFA is the most comprehensive organization of its kind, serving more than five hundred museums, the museum community, and the general public.

Curators Forum is a program of the American Federation of Arts, and made possible, in part, by a grant from Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert H. Kinney. Speaker travel is partially underwritten by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. A luncheon at the Metropolitan Museum of Art is underwritten by TIAA-CREF. The AFA is grateful to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Jewish Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art for hosting the conference.