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2014 National Medal of Arts and the National
Humanities Medal, 09/10/2015 [3 copies]

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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

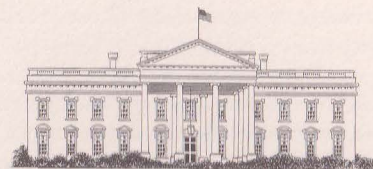
THE WHITE HOUSE

*in recognition of
the recipients of the 2014*

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

AND THE

NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL



Thursday, September 10, 2015

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the Federal Government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$5 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with State arts agencies, local leaders, other Federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1965 as an independent Federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the Nation. The Endowment brings high-quality historical and cultural experiences to large and diverse audiences in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and five territories.



THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) was founded in 1982 by Executive Order to advise the White House on cultural policy. The First Lady serves as Honorary Chair of the Committee, which is composed of both private and public members. Private members appointed by the President include prominent artists, philanthropists, entrepreneurs and State public officials who have demonstrated a commitment to the arts and humanities. Public members represent the heads of all the Federal agencies and institutions with a role in culture, including the heads of the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities, the Librarian of Congress, the Secretary of the Smithsonian, and United States Secretaries of Education, State and Treasury. The PCAH works on issues in education, cultural diplomacy, and the creative economy. Arts education has always been a focus of the Committee, and it has a history of issuing important policy reports and catalyzing Federal programs in arts education over the past 30 years.

PROGRAM

Remarks by

THE PRESIDENT

Presentation of Medals



Reception to follow

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS RECIPIENTS

JOHN BALDESSARI

for his contributions as a visual artist. His ambitious work combines photography, painting, and text to push the boundaries of image, making him one of the most influential conceptual artists of our time.

PING CHONG

for his contributions as a theater director, choreographer, and video and installation artist. Mr. Chong's innovative performances explore race, history, technology, and art to challenge our understanding of humanity in the modern world.

MIRIAM COLÓN

for her contributions as an actress. Ms. Colón has been a trailblazer in film, television, and theater, and helped open doors for generations of Hispanic actors.

THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

for supporting creative expression across the country. With generosity and a bold commitment to artistic risk, this foundation has helped artists, musicians, dancers, and actors share their talents, enriching the cultural life of our Nation.

SALLY FIELD

for her contributions as an actress and filmmaker. The dignity, empathy, and fearlessness of her performances have touched audiences around the world, and she has deployed those same qualities off-screen in her advocacy for women, LGBT rights, and public health.

ANN HAMILTON

for her contributions as a visual artist. Ms. Hamilton uses time as process and material, and her work demonstrates the importance of experiencing the arts first-hand in the digital age.

STEPHEN KING

for his contributions as an author. One of the most popular and prolific writers of our time, Mr. King combines his remarkable storytelling with his sharp analysis of human nature. For decades, his works of horror, suspense, science fiction, and fantasy have terrified and delighted audiences around the world.

MEREDITH MONK

for her contributions as a composer, singer, and performer. Renowned for her groundbreaking vocal techniques, Ms. Monk has reimaged the instrument of voice with her innovative work.

GEORGE SHIRLEY

for his contributions as a tenor. The first African-American tenor to sing in a leading role at the Metropolitan Opera, Mr. Shirley has captivated audiences for more than 50 years with his masterful performances. As a pioneer and as a teacher, Mr. Shirley has paved the way for generations of aspiring African-American opera singers.

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

for presenting the performing arts to communities in Michigan. For over a century, the Society has brought world-class orchestras, dance ensembles, jazz performers, and theater companies to Michigan, while supporting the study and creation of new works.

TOBIAS WOLFF

for his contributions as an author and educator. His raw works of fiction examine themes of American identity and individual morality. With wit and compassion, Mr. Wolff's work reflects the truths of our human experience.

NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL RECIPIENTS

THE CLEMENTE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES

for improving the lives of disadvantaged adults. The Clemente Course has brought free humanities education to thousands of men and women, enriching their lives and broadening their horizons.

ANNIE DILLARD

for her profound reflections on human life and nature. In poetry and in prose, Ms. Dillard has invited us to stand humbly before the stark beauty of creation.

EVERETT L. FLY

for preserving the integrity of African-American places and landmarks. A landscape architect, Mr. Fly has worked tirelessly to win historical recognition for Eatonville, Florida, Nicodemus, Kansas, and other sites central to African-American history, preserving an important part of our broader American heritage.

REBECCA NEWBERGER GOLDSTEIN

for bringing philosophy into conversation with culture. In scholarship, Dr. Goldstein has elucidated the ideas of Spinoza and Gödel, while in fiction, she deploys wit and drama to help us understand the great human conflict between thought and feeling.

EVELYN BROOKS HIGGINBOTHAM

for illuminating the African-American journey. In her writings and edited volumes, Dr. Higginbotham has traced the course of African-American history, and deepened our understanding of the American story.

JHUMPA LAHIRI

for enlarging the human story. In her works of fiction, Dr. Lahiri has illuminated the Indian-American experience in beautifully wrought narratives of estrangement and belonging.

FEDWA MALTI-DOUGLAS

for her studies of Arabic letters. Dr. Douglas has mapped the discourse of gender and letters in the Arab Middle East and applied her insights to American culture.

LARRY MCMURTRY

for his books, essays, and screenplays. Mr. McMurtry's work evokes the character and drama of the American West with stories that examine quintessentially American lives.

VICKI LYNN RUIZ

for her contributions as a historian. In monographs and edited volumes, Dr. Ruiz has pioneered the history of twentieth-century Latinas in a distinguished career that began with collecting oral testimony from Mexicana and Mexican-American women who worked in U.S. canning factories.

ALICE WATERS

for celebrating the bond between the ethical and the edible. As a chef, author, and advocate, Ms. Waters champions a holistic approach to eating and health and celebrates integrating gardening, cooking, and education, sparking inspiration in a new generation.

