

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:  
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## JOHN WALKER RECEIVES NATIONAL GALLERY MEDAL

WASHINGTON, D. C. John Walker, Director Emeritus of the National Gallery of Art, received the National Gallery's Medal for Distinguished Service to Education in Art today (Tuesday, November 9), the official publication date of his latest book on the Gallery.

Paul Mellon, President of the National Gallery, and J. Carter Brown, Director, participated in the presentation ceremony, which took place at 6 p.m. in front of the America tapestry in the Gallery's Fourth Street lobby.

Mr. Walker's new book National Gallery of Art, Washington has been published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc. Containing more than 1000 full-color illustrations of works of art in the National Gallery of Art collections, this important volume is a successor to Mr. Walker's very popular book about the National Gallery first published in 1963.

Mr. Walker has a long and distinguished career of service to scholarship and education in art. His association with the

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National Gallery began in 1938 when, as its Chief Curator, he helped in the design of the new building and supervised the installation of the Andrew W. Mellon Collection and the Samuel H. Kress Collection prior to the opening of the Gallery in 1941. He served as Chief Curator until 1956 and as Director from that time until 1969, when he became Director Emeritus.

Mr. Walker has also served as a Trustee of the Andrew W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, the American Federation of Arts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Lila Acheson Wallace Foundation of New York, and the American Academy in Rome. In addition to being a member of the Commission of Fine Arts, the Advisory Board of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, and the Board of Advisors of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, he has been on the advisory councils for the University of Notre Dame and the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, of which he was also a Trustee.

In addition to his most recent work, Mr. Walker's publications include an autobiography Self-Portrait with Donors: Confessions of an Art Collector, 1974; A Pageant of Painting from the National Gallery of Art (with Huntington Cairns), 1966; Bellini and Titian at Ferrara: A Study of Styles and Taste, 1956;

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Paintings from America, 1951; and Great American Paintings from Smibert to Bellows, 1729-1924 (with Macgill James), 1943.

Presentation of the National Gallery's Medal has occurred only twice before. In 1966, the Gallery's twenty-fifth anniversary and the year the Medal was first struck, twenty-six art educators throughout the nation, including the late Erwin Panofsky, Professor Emeritus of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, were awarded the Medal. The second presentation was held in 1970 when Kenneth Clark (Lord Clark of Saltwood), author and narrator of the "Civilisation" and "Romantic Rebellion" film series, received the honor.

Artist and sculptor Leonard Baskin of Northhampton, Massachusetts, designed the eagle on the Medal's obverse. The reverse was designed by calligrapher and stone cutter John Everett Benson of Newport, Rhode Island. The reverse bears the words "For Distinguished Service To Education In Art."

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