

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

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CONTACT: Ruth Kaplan
(202) 842-6353

BOARD ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND TWO NEW TRUSTEES

FRANKLIN D. MURPHY AND JOHN R. STEVENSON RETIRE

AS CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT OF BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 29, 1993 -- Following a meeting today of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, John R. Stevenson, President of the Gallery announced that Franklin D. Murphy, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Gallery since 1985, and a Trustee since 1964, is retiring from the Gallery's Board. Mr. Stevenson also announced that he himself would be retiring as President, a position he has held since 1979 and as a Trustee which he has been since 1975. Dr. Murphy and Mr. Stevenson have each been given the honorary title "Trustee Emeritus". To succeed Dr. Murphy as Chairman, the Board elected Ruth Carter Stevenson of Fort Worth and, as President, Robert H. Smith of Washington. To succeed Dr. Murphy and Mr. Stevenson as Trustees, the Board elected Robert F. Erburu of Los Angeles and Louise W. Mellon of Middleburg, Virginia.

In commenting on Dr. Murphy's retirement as Chairman of the Board, the Gallery's new President, Robert H. Smith said today,

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"Dr. Murphy has given nearly thirty years of continuous, dynamic leadership to this national institution as a Trustee and Chairman of the Board." He commended Dr. Murphy's "wise, able, and dedicated guidance of the artistic and administrative affairs of the Gallery and his sound and constructive counsel as a Trustee and Officer." In 1991, Dr. Murphy received the National Gallery's highest award, the Andrew W. Mellon medal, to honor his decades of distinguished service to the Gallery. Dr. Murphy was formerly Chairman and CEO of The Times Mirror Company and Chancellor of UCLA and the University of Kansas. He is currently Chairman of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

Mr. Smith also expressed his profound appreciation on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees for Mr. Stevenson's superb stewardship of the Gallery since assuming the role of President in 1979. "More than any other Trustee, Mr. Stevenson has been involved on a daily basis with the affairs of the Gallery for nearly fifteen years. He was also the driving force behind the tremendous success of the Patrons' Permanent Fund, the Gallery's first fundraising campaign to create an endowment for art acquisitions. Over the years, as the distinguished senior partner and chairman of the law firm, Sullivan & Cromwell and former legal adviser to the State Department, he has brought his considerable knowledge of business, corporate, and government affairs to bear on the activities of the National Gallery of

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Art." Mr. Stevenson has also been Ambassador and Special Representative of the President to the Law of the Sea Conference; a member of the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Bank of New York; and a Trustee of the Mellon Foundation.

Ruth Carter Stevenson, the Gallery Board's new Chairman, has been a Trustee of the Gallery since 1979. Since 1975 she has served as Chairman of the Collectors Committee which, through its annual gifts, has greatly enhanced the Gallery's twentieth-century collection. She is also President of the Board of Trustees of the Amon Carter Museum; President of the Board of Directors of the Amon G. Carter Foundation; and a Board member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and of the Madeira School.

Robert H. Smith, the Gallery's new President, has been a Trustee since 1985. He is also co-chair of the Circle of the National Gallery of Art and was Chairman of the Gallery's 50th Anniversary Gift Committee (1988-91) and the Trustees' Council (1982-85). Mr. Smith is a distinguished collector of European paintings, drawings and sculpture. A long-time resident of the Washington area, he has been affiliated for the past forty-three years with the Charles E. Smith Companies, a Washington metropolitan real estate development and management firm. He is

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currently President of Charles E. Smith Construction, Inc. He is a Trustee of the Brookings Institution; George Washington University; and former Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Incoming Trustee Robert Erburu has been a member of the National Gallery's Trustees' Council since 1985, and a member of The Circle of the National Gallery of Art since 1989. He is Chairman and CEO of The Times Mirror Company; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Huntington Library, Art Collection, and Botanical Gardens; and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the J. Paul Getty Trust.

Incoming Trustee Louise W. Mellon, former daughter-in-law of Paul Mellon, has been a member of the Trustees' Council since 1991 where she has been an active member of the development committee and the committee for the Forum on Connoisseurship and Collecting, which was formed for the purpose of broadening the Gallery's outreach to a younger audience. A collector of nineteenth- and twentieth-century British and American art, she is also a commercial photographer of horses.

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