

Release Date: March 5, 2004

## NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART'S MARGARET PARSONS RECEIVES DC INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2004 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Margaret Parsons, curator  
department of film programs  
National Gallery of Art  
photo by Chad Evans Wyatt

Washington, DC--Margaret Parsons, head of the department of film programs at the National Gallery of Art, was honored with the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award at the 5th annual DC Independent Film Festival on Thursday, March 4. The award is given annually to an individual from the Washington, DC, area, who has made a major contribution to the film community.

"The DCIFF 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award committee chose Peggy Parsons for her outstanding contributions to the District's cinema culture," said Carol Bidault,

DCIFF executive director and founder. "Under Peggy's guidance, the Gallery has been at the forefront in recognizing the cinematic achievements of filmmakers from around the world, and the state-of-the-art, theater-style East Building Auditorium has evolved into a prestigious venue for films seeking exposure on the festival and distribution circuit."

Since 1978 Parsons has been in charge of programming and managing film events as well as film retrospectives, and she is responsible for overseeing a collection of art films and videos, producing brochures and program notes, and introducing public film programs. Parsons heads an advisory committee of internationally recognized film scholars that meets annually to review and recommend film exhibition topics for the National Gallery of Art.

In addition to her role at the National Gallery of Art, Parsons has held positions at the Smithsonian Institution, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Children's Museum, Boston.

Parsons has served as an advisor, panelist, programmer, or board member for the following organizations: Maryland State Arts Council; Program for Art on Film of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Getty Trust; Victorian Society in America DC Chapter; Interact Theater Company; Georgetown Theater Company; Festival International du Film sur l'Art; Rosebud Awards; Washington DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Grants in Aid Program; Capitol Hill Arts Workshop; International Society of Specialty Film Exhibitors and Distributors; Colonial Singers and Players; Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital; Forum for the Psychoanalytic Study of Film; FilmFest DC; Washington Jewish Film Festival; and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. She has served as juror for the American Film and Video Festival; Council on International Nontheatric Events; Program for Art on Film; Sinking Creek Film and Video Festival; and the American Association of Museums MUSE Awards for film/video.

She has been a speaker for programs aired on National Public Radio, Voice of America, BBC, Georgian Television/Radio, National Iranian Television, and Maryland Public Broadcasting. Articles or columns by Parsons have appeared in *New York*

*Folklore*; *Curator*; *Sign Systems for Libraries*; *Folklore Society of Greater Washington* (newsletter); *Folk Art Messenger*, and *Folk Art Magazine* (forthcoming).

Film notes/reviews by Parsons have appeared in FilmFest DC catalogues and National Gallery of Art Quarterly Film Program. Parsons also has served as editor and project supervisor for *The Art of Moving Shadows*, a catalogue that accompanied the film series *Photography and the Moving Image* and the 1989 exhibition *On the Art of Fixing a Shadow*. She has compiled and delivered a DVD commentary track for *The Mystery of Picasso*. Among her organizational affiliations are the Association of Moving Image Archivists, ArtTable, Domitor, and Women in Film and Video.

Parsons holds a BA in fine arts from Boston University and an MA in museum studies from the State University of New York, Cooperstown Graduate Program. For information on the Gallery's film program, visit [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov) (<http://www.nga.gov/home.htm>) or click on [/programs/film.htm](http://www.nga.gov/programs/film.htm) (<http://www.nga.gov/programs/film.htm>).

###

## General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit [www.nga.gov/renovation](http://www.nga.gov/renovation) (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) and on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/ngadc) at [twitter.com/ngadc](http://twitter.com/ngadc).

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

Press Office

National Gallery of Art

2000B South Club Drive

Landover, MD 20785

phone: (202) 842-6353 e-mail: [pressinfo@nga.gov](mailto:pressinfo@nga.gov)

Deborah Ziska

Chief of Press and Public Information

(202) 842-6353

[ds-ziska@nga.gov](mailto:ds-ziska@nga.gov)