



THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES  
**2009 ART AWARD WINNERS**

New York, March 20, 2009 — The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the eight artists who will receive its 2009 awards in art. The awards will be presented in New York City in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The art prizes, totaling \$57,500, honor both established and emerging artists. The award winners were chosen from a group of 30 artists who had been invited to participate in the *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts*, which opened on March 12, 2009. These 30 participating artists had been selected from a group of over 170 artists nominated by members of the Academy. The members of this year's selection committee were: William Bailey, Jennifer Bartlett, Chuck Close, Varujan Boghosian, Jane Freilicher, Martin Puryear, Robert Ryman, and Urusla von Rydingsvard.

**Academy Awards in Art** — Five Academy Awards in Art for \$7500 each are given to honor exceptional accomplishment and to encourage creative work.

Stephen Antonakos  
Gregory Crewdson  
John Dubrow  
Duncan Johnson  
Susan Jane Walp

**Jimmy Ernst Award in Art** — The \$5000 Jimmy Ernst Award in Art is given to a “painter or sculptor whose lifetime contribution to his or her vision has been both consistent and dedicated.”

Charles Cajori

**John Koch Award in Art** — The inaugural John Koch Award in Art of \$10,000 is given to a young painter of figurative work.

Elisa Jensen

**Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Painting** — The annual Rosenthal Family Foundation Award of \$5000 is presented to a “young American painter of distinction.”

Hilary Harkness

**Art Purchase Program** — The Academy's purchase program began in 1946 to place the work of talented, living American artists in museums across the country. Since the inauguration of the purchase program, the Academy has spent nearly \$3 million to purchase over 1100 works of art. The American Impressionist Childe Hassam (1859-1935) founded this program through the bequest of over 400 of his works with the stipulation that the accumulated income from their sale be used to establish a fund to purchase paintings and works on paper. Similar bequests were made by Academy members Eugene Speicher (1883-1962), Louis Betts (1873-1961), and Gardner Symons (1861-1930).

Charles Gaines  
Ann Gale  
Mark Karnes  
Judy Linn  
Tine Lundsryd  
Chris Martin  
Beverly McIver  
Harry Naar  
David Nelson  
Jim Nutt  
Celia Reisman  
Stephen Talasnik

Works by the artists purchased in 2009 will be donated to American museums.

Works by the winners of the 2009 Art Awards are currently on display in the *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts*. It will remain on display for the *Exhibition Of Work By Newly Elected Members And Recipients Of Honors And Awards*, which follows the Ceremonial in May. Details are below and on our website at [www.artsandletters.org](http://www.artsandletters.org).

INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION  
OF VISUAL ART

*Admission Free*

**Thursday, March 12 to Sunday, April 5, 2009**

Thursdays through Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

On Audubon Terrace, west side of Broadway  
between 155 and 156 Streets, New York City.

#1 train to 157 Street and Broadway

### **American Academy of Arts and Letters**

The American Academy of Arts and Letters was established in 1898 to “foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts.” Election to the Academy is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in this country. Founding members include William Merritt Chase, Kenyon Cox, Daniel Chester French, Childe Hassam, Henry James, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Vedder, and Woodrow Wilson. The Academy is currently comprised of 250 of America’s leading voices in the fields of Art, Architecture, Literature, and Music. The Academy presents exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts; and readings and performances of new musicals throughout the year, and is located in three landmark buildings on Audubon Terrace at 155 Street and Broadway, New York City.