

# American Academy of Arts and Letters

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES

### 2010 ART AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 25, 2010 — The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the eight artists who will receive its 2010 awards in art. The awards will be presented in New York City in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The art prizes, totaling \$62,500, honor both established and emerging artists. The award winners were chosen from a group of 37 artists who had been invited to participate in the *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts*, which opened on March 11, 2010. The *Invitational Exhibition* continues through April 11, 2010, and features over 120 paintings, sculptures, photographs and works on paper. The members of this year's award selection committee were: William Bailey, Chuck Close, Eric Fischl, Jane Freilicher, Judy Pfaff, Martin Puryear, Robert Ryman, and Ursula von Rydingsvard.

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

GABRIELLE BAKKER  
LOTHAR OSTERBURG  
JULIANNE SWARTZ  
TOM UTTECH  
STANLEY WHITNEY

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

WILLIAM CHRISTENBERRY

**Willard L. Metcalf Award in Art** — The \$10,000 Willard L. Metcalf Award honors a young artist of great promise.

JOHN GRADE

**Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Painting** — The annual Rosenthal Family Foundation Award of \$10,000 is presented to a “young American painter of distinction.”

AARON GILBERT

**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 painter 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). All works purchased through this program will be donated to American museums.

LAURA BATTLE  
BEVERLY FISHMAN  
AARON GILBERT  
ELLIOTT GREEN  
DAN GUSTIN  
SUZANNE JOELSON  
MICHAEL KNUTSON  
JOHN LEES  
SANGRAM MAJUMDAR  
ANDREW MASULLO  
MARY PUTMAN  
JANE ROSEN  
JOSEPH SANTORE  
GWEN STRAHLE  
METTE TOMMERUP  
JACK WAX

Works by the winners of the 2010 Art Awards are currently on display in the *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts*, and will be shown in 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 ARTS

*Admission Free*

**Thursday, March 11 to Sunday, April 11, 2010**

*Closed for Easter (April 2-4)*

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.