



THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

*in recognition of
the recipients of the 2009*

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

AND THE

NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL



Thursday, February 25, 2010

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS RECIPIENTS

BOB DYLAN

for his achievements as one of America's leading musical artists in popular culture. He is an icon of youthful rebellion and poetic sensitivity, and his songs echo in the hearts of millions.

CLINT EASTWOOD

for his artistry as a director and actor. His films and performances are essays in individuality, hard truths, and the essence of what it means to be American.

MILTON GLASER

for a lifetime devoted to improving the way people communicate through innovation in graphic design, and for memorable visual artifacts that challenge contemporary artists and delight all Americans.

MAYA LIN

for her profound work as an architect, artist, and environmentalist. Her vision for the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial emblemizes her deep understanding of the ways in which we respond to the world around us.

RITA MORENO

for her remarkable achievements on stage and screen. Her performances have served as touchstones to millions of Americans for whom she reflects their own passions, troubles, and joys.

JESSYE NORMAN

for her contributions to American music as a dramatic soprano, broadening contemporary operatic repertoire and distinguishing herself with the warmth, intensity, and range of her voice.

THE OBERLIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

for preparing young musicians to become great cultural contributors. As a model of music education, America's oldest continuously operating conservatory proves that exceptional training enriches artists, our communities, and our Nation.

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.

for cultivating Charleston's historic and cultural resources to enhance public spaces, and for revitalizing urban centers throughout our Nation as founder of the Mayors' Institute on City Design.

THE SCHOOL OF AMERICAN BALLET

for shaping the history of 20th century dance by training young dancers under the guidance of the world's ballet masters to forge a dynamic classical ballet tradition in the United States.

FRANK STELLA

for his accomplishments as one of the world's most innovative painters and sculptors. His sophisticated visual experiments—often transcending boundaries between painting, printmaking, and sculpture—are modern masterpieces.

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

for his dedication to elevating American orchestral playing as a renowned conductor, and for his commitment to engaging new artists and audiences in the exciting world of contemporary music.

JOHN WILLIAMS

for his achievements in symphonic music for motion pictures. As a preeminent composer and conductor, his scores have defined and inspired modern movie-going for decades.

NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL RECIPIENTS

ROBERT A. CARO

for capturing the subtle machinations of political influence in America. His biographies of Robert Moses and President Johnson have shown us how individuals accumulate and exercise power in local and national settings.

ANNETTE GORDON-REED

for important and innovative research about an American family, the Hemingses of Monticello. Her narrative about Sally Hemings and her relatives, Thomas Jefferson's slaves, brings to light a previously unrecognized chapter in the American story.

DAVID LEVERING LEWIS

for his insightful examinations of W. E. B. Du Bois, the Dreyfus Affair, and early Islamic-Christian relations in Europe, which have enriched our understanding of the figures and forces that shaped world history.

WILLIAM H. MCNEILL

for his pedagogy at the University of Chicago and as an author of more than twenty books, including "The Rise of the West," which traces civilizations through 5,000 years of recorded history.

PHILIPPE DE MONTEBELLO

for his vision in bringing great art to an international public and his leadership in revitalizing the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and for fostering arts appreciation among people of all ages.

ALBERT H. SMALL

for his devotion to sharing early American manuscripts with our Nation's cultural and educational institutions, as a philanthropist and collector. His generosity has helped educate countless Americans about those who founded our country.

THEODORE C. SORENSEN

for advancing our understanding of modern American politics. As a speechwriter and adviser to President Kennedy, he helped craft messages and policies, and later gave us a window into the people and events that made history.

ELIE WIESEL

for his unwavering commitment to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and its victims. He has fostered compassion and understanding through his writing, his leadership, and his relentless advocacy for human rights.



