## The Museum of Modern Art

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## MoMA PRESIDENT AGNES GUND AWARDED 1997 NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON

The Museum of Modern Art President Agnes Gund was awarded today a prestigious 1997 National Medal of Arts by President and Mrs. Clinton in a ceremony at the White House. Ms. Gund has been one of the Museum's most important patrons for more than 20 years, supporting educational programs and exhibitions, enhancing the collection by donating many works of art, and actively serving as an officer and trustee.

Established by Congress in 1984, the Medal of Arts honors individuals and organizations who, in the President's judgment, deserve "special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States." It is the nation's highest award for achievement in the arts. The recipients are selected by the President from among nominations submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts.

Elected a member of MoMA's Board of Trustees in 1976, Ms. Gund has been President since 1991, serving as Chairman from 1993 to 1995. She is actively involved in many other organizations, including the J. Paul Getty Trust, the American Academy in Rome, and the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio, where she is a member of the board. An advocate for art education, she founded Studio in a School in 1977, a program that places artists as teachers in public schools for which she received the Doris C. Freeman Award, New York City, and the Governor's Award, New York State. Her awards include the Montblanc de la Culture Award (1997), the ArtTable Award for Distinguished Service to Visual Arts (1994), and

four honorary doctorates.

Ms. Gund is the only patron among this year's 11 recipients, who include such luminaries as artist Louise Bourgeois, jazz vocalist Betty Carter, actress Angela Lansbury, musician Tito Puente, and actor Jason Robards.

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