



**For Immediate Release:** October 16, 2012



**AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS 2012 NATIONAL ARTS AWARDS RAISES MORE THAN \$800,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTS AND ARTS EDUCATION**

***More than 400 guests gathered in New York City in celebration of 2012 honorees Paul G. Allen, Lin Arison, Josh Groban, Brian Stokes Mitchell, James Rosenquist, and AXA Art Insurance Corporation***

**New York—Americans for the Arts**, the leading organization for advancing the arts and arts education in the US, celebrated the 46<sup>th</sup> annual **National Arts Awards** on Monday, October 15, at Cipriani 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in New York City, raising more than **\$800,000** in support of the arts and arts education. Hosted during National Arts and Humanities month, the black-tie event was chaired by **Maria Bell** alongside co-chairs **Jody Allen, Sarah Arison, Edythe and Eli Broad, The Steven A. and Alexandra M. Cohen Foundation, Isabella and Theodor Dalenson, and Julie and Edward J. Minskoff**. More than 400 of the nation's top opinion leaders from the communities of art, culture, business and philanthropy, gathered to recognize the importance of the arts nationwide. The evening also paid tribute to six honorees: legendary investor and Microsoft co-founder, **Paul G. Allen**; co-founder of YoungArts and the Presidential Scholars in the Arts Program **Lin Arison**; Tony Award®-winning actor **Brian Stokes Mitchell**; multiplatinum recording artist **Josh Groban**; acclaimed painter **James Rosenquist**; and **AXA Art Insurance Corporation**.

The evening began with an elegant cocktail hour featuring artwork by renowned visual artist **Julie Mehretu**. Artists Committee member and Vanity Fair Photographer at Large, **Todd Eberle** was on

hand taking one-of-a-kind Polaroid portraits of special guests with proceeds benefiting Americans for the Arts. Dinner featured a 3-course meal followed by presentations of the awards, video tributes to the honorees, and musical performances by **YoungArts**. Arranged by the evening's Musical Director, YoungArts alumna **Kate Davis**, guests enjoyed a compilation of music from Broadway as well as original compositions by Duke Ellington and singer/songwriter honoree Josh Groban including his 2007 hit, "February Song."

Artist **Richard Serra** presented the *Eli and Edythe Broad Award for Philanthropy in the Arts* to Paul G. Allen, followed by a presentation of the *Corporate Citizenship in the Arts Award* to AXA Art Insurance **Corporation** by Miami collector **Martin Z. Margulies**. Actress **Bebe Neuwirth** paid tribute to Brian Stokes Mitchell as recipient of the *Outstanding Contributions to the Arts Award* while singer **Renée Fleming** honored Josh Groban with the *Bell Family Foundation Young Artist Award*. Lin Arison received the *Arts Education Award* from choreographer and dancer **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, and philanthropist and arts patron **Agnes Gund** presented James Rosenquist with the *Isabella and Theodor Dalenson Lifetime Achievement Award*.

**More than 400 guests and cultural opinion leaders attended, including:**

**Visual Artists:** John Baldessari, T. R. Ericsson, Julie Mehretu, Sarah Morris, Walter Robinson, Richard Serra, and Frank Stella; **Architect:** Kulaput Yantrasast; **Actresses and TV Hosts:** China Chow, Liz Margulies, Allyson Tucker, and Charlie Rose; **Writers:** Amanda Beall and Marla Kanelos; **Business/Philanthropy:** Sam Bonnier, Edward J. and Julie Minskoff, and Jonathan and Wendy Spector; **Dancers:** Pierre Dulaine, Graham Lustig, Yvonne Marceau, Lisa Rinehart and Heather Watts; **Directors:** Moisés Kaufman and Abel López; **Interior Designer** Anna-Johanna Bonnier; **Musicians:** Herbie Hancock, and Lee Rocker; and **Collectors, Dealers, and Art World Luminaries:** Alexander, Nicholas, and Travis Acquavella, Douglas Baxter, Jamie Bennett, Irving and Jackie Blum, Mary Boone, Ted and Isabella Dalenson, Jeffrey Deitch, Jenny Dixon, Richard Edwards, Brian J. Ferriso, Christiane Fischer, Eleanor Flomenhaft, Yvonne Force, Casey Freemont, Larry Gagosian, Lance Goldsmith, Marguerite Hoffman, Justine Koons, Raymond Learsy, The Honorable Kate D. Levin, Margo Lion, Paul Morris, John and Amy Phelan, Doreen Remen, Scott Rothkopf, Tony Shafrazi, Carol Stringari, Liz Swig, Phillipe Vergne, Adam Weinberg, and Ari Wiseman.

Guests walked away from the evening with goodie bags complete with individually boxed Sprinkles Cupcakes topped with the Americans for the Arts logo and illycaffè cans in honor of James Rosenquist, who designed the illy logo in 1996, and from YoungArts, a group of DVDs including HBO's MasterClass featuring Renée Fleming. In addition, each guest received an **ArtsVote2012** poster by Julie Mehretu which was produced in conjunction with Americans for the Arts Action Fund events at both the Republican and Democratic conventions.

**The event was generously supported by sponsors:** Acquavella Galleries, AXA Equitable, The Bell Family Foundation, The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, The Steven A. and Alexandra M. Cohen Foundation, Isabella and Theodor Dalenson, The Herb Alpert Foundation, Gagosian Gallery, Julie and Edward J. Minskoff, and YoungArts.

For more information of upcoming events and programs hosted by Americans for the Arts, visit [artsusa.org/go/naa](http://artsusa.org/go/naa).

**Americans for the Arts** is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, it has a record of more than 50 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating

*opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org).*

Image: Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch, Event Chair Maria Bell, and honoree Brian Stokes Mitchell at the 2012 National Arts Awards.

**For press images of the event and more information on the National Arts Awards, please contact:**

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