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SHARON PERCY ROCKEFELLER AND JOHN WILMERDING ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, DC—Following a meeting on May 6, 2005, of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, Vicki Sant, president of the Gallery, announced the election of two new trustees: Sharon Percy Rockefeller, president and chief executive officer of WETA-TV-26 and FM 90.9, and John Wilmerding, former curator and deputy director of the Gallery and the Christopher Binyon Sarofim Professor of American Art, Princeton University. They succeed outgoing trustees Julian Ganz, Jr., who has served on the board since 1997, and David O. Maxwell, who became a trustee in 1999. Ganz and Maxwell are retiring from the board pursuant to a provision of the Gallery's bylaws regarding age. Each will each become a trustee emeritus.

On behalf of the Gallery, Sant expressed her “deepest gratitude for Julian Ganz’s and David Maxwell’s dedication and important contributions to the Gallery for more than a decade.” She looked forward to working with Sharon Rockefeller, “a dynamic leader in public broadcasting who has maintained a high level of commitment to the arts through the years,” and John Wilmerding, “a renowned art historian, an insightful collector, and a pioneer in the field of American art whose knowledge is matched only by his generosity.”

Julian Ganz, Jr.

Ganz, president and co-owner of McMahan Furniture Company, Santa Monica, California, served as chair of the Gallery's Trustees' Council from 1997 to 1999. He

and his wife Jo Ann reside in Los Angeles, California. They are Gallery benefactors and have made partial and promised gifts of important American paintings, including Winslow Homer's *Blackboard* (1877); John F. Peto's *For the Track* (1895); Raphaelle Peale's *A Dessert* (1814), in memory of former trustee Franklin Murphy; and Sanford Robinson Gifford's *The Artist Sketching at Mt. Desert, Maine* (1864-1865) in honor of John Wilmerding.

David O. Maxwell

Maxwell, retired chairman and chief executive officer of the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), and his wife Joan reside in Washington, DC. They became founding members of The Circle, the Gallery's annual membership group, in 1986, and have supported the Gallery's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts and various exhibitions. In 1993 they created the Joan and David Maxwell Fund, which has made possible the acquisition of important works of art over the last several years. In addition, he and his wife have pledged several works of art to the Gallery. Since 1993 Maxwell has been a member of the Gallery's Trustees' Council, which he chaired from 1999 to 2000. He co-chaired The Circle of the National Gallery of Art from 1994 to 1999.

Sharon Percy Rockefeller



Sharon Rockefeller

Member, Board of Trustees

National Gallery of Art

Rockefeller has served the public broadcasting community for more than 25 years, primarily as president and chief executive officer of WETA, Washington's flagship public television and radio stations since 1989, as well as a member of the board of directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for 12 years, including four years as chair. In 2000 she was elected to the PBS Board of Directors for her fourth term.

A graduate of Stanford University, Rockefeller serves on the boards of PepsiCo, the Phillips Collection, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a trustee of the Federal City Council, and a member and former chair of the Stanford-in-Washington Council. She was formerly a member of the board of Stanford University, the University of Chicago, the Smithsonian Associates, the Washington National Cathedral, the George Washington University, and the Smithsonian American Art Commission. In 1968 she founded Mountain Artisans, a quilting business for low-income West Virginia artisans, and served as a member of the board of the Sunrise Museum in Charleston, West Virginia. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her achievements in public broadcasting and in the promotion of the arts and humanities.

Rockefeller was born in 1944 in Oakland, California, and raised in Chicago, Illinois. Her father, Charles Percy, served 18 years in the US Senate, representing Illinois. She and her husband, Senator John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV of West Virginia, have four children and reside primarily in Washington, DC. The Rockefellers joined The Circle of the National Gallery of Art in 1990. They have generously supported the Gallery's art acquisition efforts through their participation in the New Century Fund, the Millennium Fund, and the Collectors Committee. In 1994 Sharon Rockefeller joined the Trustees' Council. She has played an instrumental role in WETA-TV's collaborative efforts with the Gallery to produce documentaries based on the Gallery exhibitions **John Singer Sargent**, **Van Gogh's Van Goghs**, and **Mary Cassatt**.

John Wilmerding



John Wilmerding

Member, Board of Trustees

National Gallery of Art

Photo by D. Applewhite

John Wilmerding, a widely published and respected authority on American art, who was cited in the March 2005 issue of *Art & Antiques* magazine as one of the nation's top 100 art collectors, recently announced the donation of his collection of 19th-century American art to the National Gallery of Art. The collection was on view in the Gallery's exhibition, *American Masters from Bingham to Eakins: The John Wilmerding Collection* (<http://www.nga.gov/press/exh/204/index.shtm>), from May 9 through February 6, 2005. The collection of 51 works represents such masters as George Caleb Bingham, Frederic Edwin Church, Thomas Eakins, William Stanley Haseltine, Martin Johnson Heade, Winslow Homer, Fitz Hugh Lane, John Marin, John F. Peto, and William Trost Richards. Previously Wilmerding donated *The Chaperone* (c. 1908) by Thomas Eakins on the occasion of the Gallery's 50th anniversary in 1991.

Born in 1938 in Boston, Wilmerding comes from a family with a rich history of art collecting. Wilmerding's great-grandparents, Henry Osborne Havemeyer and his second wife, Louisine Waldron Havemeyer, amassed an extraordinary group of European and oriental works of art that was eventually bequeathed to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Electra Havemeyer Webb (Wilmerding's grandmother), one of the Havemeyers' daughters, assembled a remarkable and vast collection of folk

art that was the genesis of the Shelburne Museum in Vermont, which she founded in 1947.

Following completion of his doctorate in art history from Harvard University, Wilmerding began teaching at Dartmouth College. In 1977 he went on to work at the National Gallery of Art, initially as its curator of American art and senior curator. He served as deputy director from 1983 to 1988. In 1980 Wilmerding organized the landmark exhibition, **American Light: The Luminist Movement**. During Wilmerding's tenure at the National Gallery of Art, the department of American art was created and important works were acquired, including Jasper Francis Cropsey's *The Spirit of War* (1851), Lane's *Lumber Schooners at Evening on Penobscot Bay* (1863), and Heade's *Cattleya Orchid and Three Brazilian Hummingbirds* (1871). After becoming the Gallery's deputy director, Wilmerding continued to support the Gallery's acquisition of significant American works, most notably Rembrandt Peale's *Rubens Peale with a Geranium* (1801).

In 1988 Wilmerding returned to full-time teaching at Princeton University, where he is currently the Christopher Binyon Sarofim Professor of American Art and chair of the department of art and archaeology. In addition he is visiting curator of the department of American art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. He is the recipient of numerous awards in art history and education.

Board of Trustees

The members of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art are the Chief Justice of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Victoria P. Sant, Robert F. Erburu, John C. Fontaine, Sharon Percy Rockefeller, and John Wilmerding. Sant is president of the Gallery and Erburu is chairman of the Board of Trustees.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit www.nga.gov/renovation (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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