

NEWS RELEASE

American Academy of Arts and Letters



633 WEST 155 STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10032-7599

(212) 368-5900 FAX (212) 491-4615

For Immediate Release

Contact: Betsey Feeley
(212) 368-5900

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ELECTS FOURTEEN NEW MEMBERS

Five artists, one architect, six writers, and two composers honored

New York, March 9, 2001- Artists Robert Mangold, Bruce Nauman, Dorothea Rockburne, Edward Ruscha, and Peter Voulkos; architect Peter Eisenman; the writers M.H. Abrams, Amiri Baraka, John Irving, Garrison Keillor, Janet Malcolm, and Jane Smiley; and the composers Samuel Adler and Carlisle Floyd, have been elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters, John Hollander, Secretary of the Academy announced today. Mr. Hollander will induct the new members at the Academy's annual Ceremonial in May.

Members are elected annually to fill vacancies in the Academy's membership of 250 American artists, architects, writers, and composers. Nominations made by members are first submitted for vote by department (Art, Literature, Music.) The names of candidates who receive the highest number of votes from the members in their discipline are then placed on a ballot that is sent to the entire membership. The honor of election is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in this country.

The Academy was founded in 1898 to "foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts." Each year, the Academy honors over 50 artists, architects, writers, and composers (who are not members) with cash awards. The amounts of these prizes range from \$2500 to \$75,000. Other activities of the Academy are exhibitions of painting, sculpture, architecture, and manuscripts; publications on the Academy's history and events; and, through its Richard Rodgers Awards, readings and performances of new musicals. The American Academy of Arts and Letters is located in two landmark buildings, designed by McKim, Mead & White and by Cass Gilbert, on Audubon Terrace at 155th Street and Broadway.