

# ArtFBI

# ArtFax

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A Faxazine of Arts Information from Cyberspace to the Mid-Atlantic Community

## NEA UNVEILS NEW WORLD WIDE WEB SITE


Washington, D.C. -- At noon on April 10, 1996, the National Endowment for the Arts strengthened links between the arts and the public with the launch of a major World Wide Web site, "arts.community". Jane Alexander, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, inaugurated the site online at its new World Wide Web address: <http://arts.endow.gov>

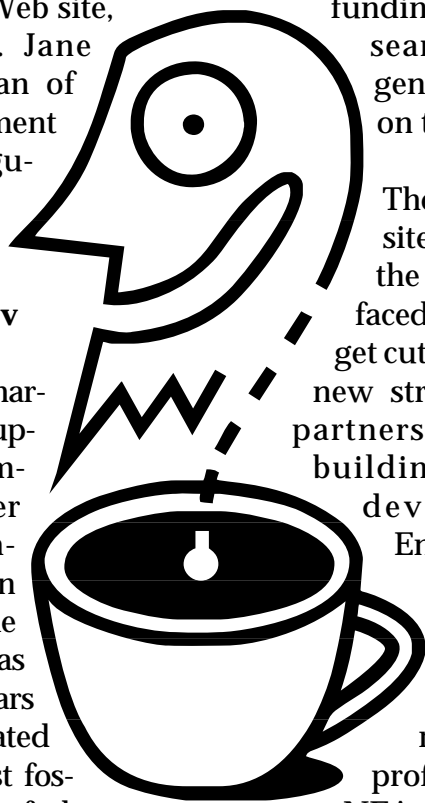
"This new Web site harnesses technology in support of greater communication stronger community," commented Chairman Alexander. "When the Arts Endowment was established thirty years ago, our legislation stated that 'democracy must foster and support a form of education and access to the arts and the humanities designed to make all people of all backgrounds, and wherever located, masters of technology and not its unthinking servant.'" she continued.

The Endowment's Web site provides information on the nonprofit arts for organizations, artists, and the general public. Features include current Endowment news, funding opportunities, research resources, and general interest articles on the arts community.

The launch of this Web site heralds a new era at the Endowment which, faced with substantial budget cuts, has implemented a new structure emphasizing partnerships, community-building, and resource development. The Endowment's Web site consists of:

**arts.community** — a monthly online magazine on the nonprofit arts with the latest NEA news, articles, profiles on cultural communities, and links to relevant Web sites.

**Guide to the Endowment** — an overview of the agency including funding op- 



portunities, staff directories, National Council on the Arts biographies, frequently asked questions.

**Arts Resource Center** — an online catalog of Endowment publications, research reports, information on arts service organizations, and online publications.

-Source: NEA on Arts Wire

## Phoenix Art Museum Flag Exhibit Attacked

On April 2, House Speaker Newt Gingrich called on the Phoenix Art Museum to close down its exhibit "Old Glory: The American Flag in Contemporary Art," while simultaneously rejecting an invitation from the museum to come and see the works before casting judgment. Gingrich stated, "That's a sign of how much they don't get it, that they think looking at it will make us happier. The fact is it will make us angrier, and I think they should close the exhibit."


Referring a Vietnam-era piece by Kate Millett included in the exhibit, Gingrich stated, I don't have to look at a U.S. flag in the toilet to know that it is wrong." The Millett piece and Dread Scott's "What is the Proper Way to Display the American Flag?", two of the 80 works spanning 50 years included in the exhibit, have drawn fire from the American Legion and the Citizens' Flag Alliance, which is using the incident to drum up renewed support for a national constitutional amendment against "flag desecration." Scott's piece, which was also picketed during its 1989 debut at the School of the Art In-

stitute of Chicago, consists of an American flag laid out on the floor. A comment book is placed both above the flag (so that visitors walk on it in order to write in the book), while another comment book is placed nearby for those who wish to respond without treading on the flag.

Some state legislators have threatened to curtail the museum's funding if the exhibit is not closed. The museum is a private, non-profit institution which receives a portion of its \$3.2 million annual budget from the state (\$217,000 for general operating expenses), but the "Old Glory" exhibit is entirely privately funded. In addition, the Legislature attached an amendment to an unrelated Senate bill establishing the Arizona Arts Endowment Fund, stipulating that those funds could not be used to fund works that "desecrate the flag or religious symbols."

The museum presented a forum entitled "Freedom of Expression and the Arts" on Saturday, April 13. The keynote speaker was John Frohnmayer, Attorney and former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Other speakers/panelists included performance artist Faith Ringgold and Marjorie Heins of the ACLU's Arts Censorship Project.

The National Campaign for Freedom of Expression has been in contact with museum officials and with representatives of Arizonans for Cultural Development, a local arts agency which has mounted a vigorous defense campaign on behalf of the museum and the exhibit. (tel: 602.990.1664).

The NCFE recommends 

### BILL GATES BUYS ELECTRONIC RIGHTS TO ANSEL ADAMS WORKS

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates has acquired electronic rights to the works of Ansel Adams. The deal was negotiated by Gates' privately owned Corbis Corp.

Corbis has already acquired electronic rights to millions of images including works in Britain's National Gallery and Russia's State Hermitage Museum and the 16 million images in the Bettman Archive of historic photographs. Although in most cases he has only acquired electronic rights, Gates owns the images themselves in the Bettman Archive deal.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the Ansel Adams 

**Publishing Rights Trust, which benefits the photographer's widow and other survivors, will receive about \$20,000 up front, plus a relatively large share of future royalty fees. The trust will retain all rights to traditional publication of the photos.**

**Corbis intends to produce a CD-ROM on the life and art of Ansel Adams, who died in 1984. In addition, under a revenue-sharing arrangement with the trust, they will have the exclusive right to license the 40,000 images in Adams' archive in digital form to publishers. The Adams Trust retains veto power over the use of each photograph.**

**-Sources: Reuter, Wall Street Journal (2 Apr 96 B5)**

the following actions that can help support the exhibit in the face of ongoing protests:

The NCFE urges readers who live near Phoenix or plan to be in the area to support the exhibit by visiting the museum, located at 1625 North Central Avenue. (tel: 602.257.1880)

The American Legion is organizing a letter-writing campaign to promote the closing of the exhibit, and the Citizens Flag Alliance has taken out a series of radio ads attacking it. Letters of support can help counteract this.

More information is available on the NCFE web site at <http://www.tmn.com/Artswire/www/ncfe/NCFE.htm> Or, Contact Jean Fallow, 1402-3rd Ave. #421, Seattle, WA 98101 tel: 206.340.9301 fax: 206.340.4303 Email: [jfallow@tmn.com](mailto:jfallow@tmn.com)

-Source: Jean Fallow, National Campaign for Freedom of Expression, posted on AW

### **Government Defends CDA as Hearings Resume**

Philadelphia, PA, April 12 — Howard A. Schmidt, an Air Force computer crimes investigator was the first witness for the Government, which is defending the Communications Decency Act (CDA) against a challenge by the American Civil Liber-

ties Union (ACLU), the American Library Association (ALA) and others. Schmidt attempted to demonstrate that it was relatively easy to come across sexually explicit material employing commonly used "search engines." Lawyers for the ACLU and the ALA tried to show that Schmidt's discovery of sexually explicit material was not as easy as it seemed.

In response to questioning about language of the law that says "patently offensive" is to be defined by community standards, Schmidt said he would view AIDS-prevention safe sex information (such as a picture of male genitalia to demonstrate the correct way to put on a condom) in context and understand that it was intended for educational purposes.

However, when asked what he would advise Vanity Fair editors if they wanted to post online the Vanity Fair magazine cover that showed the actress Demi Moore naked and pregnant, Schmidt responded that might cause discomfort for content providers. "Depending on the community in which it was viewed, that standard would probably be applied," Schmidt said.

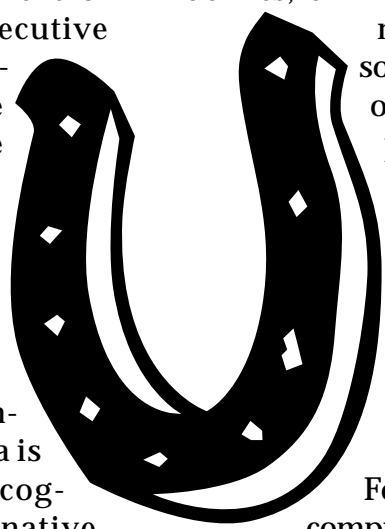
-Source: Government Opens Its Case in 'Decency' Hearing New York Times Online (<http://www.nytimes.com>)



# Roberto Bedoya Appointed Head of NAAO

After a nationwide search, National Association of Artists' Organizations (NAAO) has announced the appointment of Roberto Bedoya as Executive Director. Bedoya's priorities will be deepening the services provided to the membership while maintaining the organization's financial integrity.

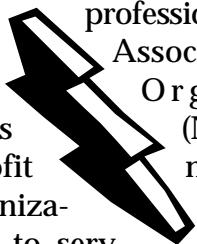
"I thrilled to have this opportunity to build on the magnificent work of my predecessor, Helen Brunner," he says. "Now, more than ever NAAO's work of supporting artists and art which defines, explores and mirrors the creative soul of this country is of paramount importance. NAAO has much to do in the interest of its constituents and, in turn, in the interest of this country's cultural vitality."



Writer, curator, and arts administrator,

Roberto Bedoya is widely known and recognized within the alternative arts' community. As a former Board Member and President of NAAO (1990—1994), he is well acquainted with the strengths and needs of the organization. Bedoya will be leaving a position as Project Associate at the Getty Center for the History of the Arts and Humanities to assume his responsibilities in the NAAO Washington, DC office.

Founded in 1982 and comprised of over 700 artists organizations, arts institutions, and arts professionals, the National Association of Artists Organizations (NAAO) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to serving, promoting and protecting artist-organizations.



-Source: NAAO on Arts Wire

People for the American Way has issued Vol. 4 of Artistic Freedom Under Attack, a yearly listing of national attempts to censor artists. Included in the Maryland listings were the taking down of art at the Maryland Institute (ArtFax, Dec. 95) and the State Legislature's bills extending the obscenity law to include computer images and film. Virginia also considered similar bills last year. This publication is available by calling 800.467.4999.

ArtFBI ArtFax began it's 4th year of publication last month. Much has changed in the arts in the last three years. More to come. We'll keep you posted.

End  
Transmission

