

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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For Immediate Release

WHITNEY MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Leonard A. Lauder Becomes Chairman Emeritus

Robert J. Hurst and Brooke Garber Neidich Named Co-Chairmen

Neil G. Bluhm Named President

New York, May 28, 2008 – In elections held yesterday by the Board of Trustees of the Whitney Museum of American Art, current Chairman Leonard A. Lauder was named Chairman Emeritus, while continuing to be a voting member of the Board; Robert J. Hurst and Brooke Garber Neidich became Co-Chairmen; and Neil G. Bluhm was named President. Mr. Hurst previously served as President and Ms. Neidich and Mr. Bluhm as Vice Chairmen. In addition, Fred Wilson was elected Artist Trustee, replacing Chuck Close.

“During a period of extraordinary change for the Whitney, with plans progressing for our new downtown site, the slate of new officers provides us with stability and continuity, backed by a remarkable record of service to this institution and to the world of art,” stated Adam D. Weinberg, Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney. “We are grateful for the invaluable contributions these Trustees have already made and are confident of the wisdom and support they will continue to provide in the future.”

Leonard A. Lauder, Chairman of the Board of The Estée Lauder Companies Inc., became a Trustee of the Whitney in 1977 and served as its Chairman since 1994. Active in the worlds of business, education, art, politics, and philanthropy, he is a charter trustee of the University of Pennsylvania and a founding member of the board of governors of the Joseph H. Lauder Institute for Management and International Studies there, which he and his brother, Ronald S. Lauder, established in 1983. He is the recipient of numerous awards

and honors, including the rank of Officier de la Légion d'Honneur in France. In March 2008, the Whitney received the largest cash gift in its history from the American Contemporary Art Foundation, a non-profit organization of which he is President.

Robert J. Hurst has been a Trustee of the Whitney since 1994 and has served as its President since 2002. He is a Senior Advisor to Crestview Capital Partners, L.P., and a retired Vice Chairman and Director of Goldman Sachs. In addition to his service to the Whitney, he is a member of the Board of Overseers of the Wharton School and a Trustee of the Aspen Institute. He also is a founding CEO of the 9/11 United Services Group and a former Chairman of The Jewish Museum.

Brooke Garber Neidich has been a Trustee of the Whitney since 1999 and served as Vice Chairman from 2004 to 2006. She also is the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Lincoln Center Theater Board of Directors and a Trustee of the Chapin School. She serves her alma mater, New York University, as a Trustee of the University, the NYU Langone Medical Center, and the NYU Child Study Center, which she co-founded with Dr. Harold Koplewicz.

Neil G. Bluhm, a founder and President of JMB Realty Corporation and a Principal in Walton Street Capital, has been a Trustee of the Whitney since 2003 and Vice Chairman since 2006. He also is a Trustee of Northwestern University (where he earned his law degree), a member of the Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Association, and a Trustee of The Art Institute of Chicago.

Joining the Whitney's Board as Artist Trustee is Fred Wilson. Chosen as the United States representative for the 50th Venice Biennale (2003) and recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Grant (1999), he came to prominence in 1988 with his installation work *Mining the Museum* at The Contemporary & Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore and was included in the 1993 Whitney Biennial. His work has since been the subject of single-artist exhibitions at the Indianapolis Museum of Art; the Seattle Art Museum; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco; the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art (Larry Aldrich Foundation Award); and the Studio Museum in Harlem, among others. His work also is included in the permanent collection of the Whitney.

Chuck Close, who leaves the Whitney Board after being a member since 2000, is the first artist to serve on a board of a major New York art museum. Close's work has been the

subject of more than 100 solo exhibitions and more than 300 group exhibitions including Documenta 5 and 6; four Whitney Biennials; the Venice Biennial in 1993, 1995, and 2002; and the Carnegie International in 1995. Mr. Close is the recipient of many awards including the National Medal of Arts presented by President Clinton in 2000.

A complete list of the officers of the Whitney Board of Trustees, elected May 27, 2008, follows:

Chairman Emeritus

Leonard A. Lauder

Co-Chairmen

Robert J. Hurst

Brooke Garber Neidich

President

Neil G. Bluhm

Vice Chairmen

Melva Bucksbaum

Susan K. Hess

Raymond J. McGuire

Robert W. Wilson

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James A. Gordon

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Thomas E. Tuft

Secretary

Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo

Treasurer

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