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THE NEW MUSEUM TO HOLD PANEL ON CENSORSHIP AND GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF THE ARTS

"Are You Angry Yet?", a free panel discussion on censorship and government funding of the arts, will be presented by The New Museum of Contemporary Art on Monday, September 25 at 7:30 PM. Participants will include Ted Potter, Carol Becker, Jack Duncan, Faith Ringgold, and Art Positive. The program is to be held at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street at Astor Place in New York City.

"Are You Angry Yet?" will provide a forum for discussing recent legislative actions regarding the National Endowment for the Arts as well as the larger issues of patronage and censorship. The NEA has come under fire as a result of its funding of exhibitions that included religiously imbued photographs by Andres Serrano and sexually explicit photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe.

The panel is composed of arts administrators, activists, and artists, including Ted Potter, Director of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, which received NEA funds to organize the exhibition that included Andres Serrano's photographs; and Carol Becker, Chair of the Department of Visual Arts at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, which was involved in two recent controversies--one over the display of an American flag in a work by a student, and the other over a student's portrait of the late mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington. Also on the panel are Jack Duncan, partner in a Washington-based law firm and lobbyist working on Capitol Hill for the American Arts Alliance; Faith Ringgold, an artist who in 1970 organized the "People's Flag Show," an exhibition that resulted in her conviction for desecration of the American flag; and

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Art Positive, an activist artists group affiliated with the organization ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power). Russell Ferguson, Librarian and Special Publications Coordinator at The New Museum, will moderate. Additional panelists to be announced.

The program will begin with a slide and video presentation by Art Positive on censorship and art. Each panelist will give a short presentation, which will be followed by an open discussion with the audience. At the end of the discussion, the audience will be encouraged to write letters to Congress in support of federal funding for the arts.

Admission to "Are You Angry Yet?" is free. Because seating is limited, reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling 212/219-1222.

Use of The Public Theater has been generously provided by Joseph Papp and The New York Shakespeare Festival.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, noon to 6 PM; Friday and Saturday, noon to 8 PM; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$3.50 general; \$2.50 artists, students, and seniors; members and children under 12, free.