

1994

Design Arts: National Academy of Design (1994): Correspondence 20

David S. Rosenak

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July 18, 1994

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
424 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

As a member of your Advisory Committee on Arts and Culture, I feel compelled to voice my concern over the current campaign of some misguided individuals to cut funding to the National Endowment for the Arts.

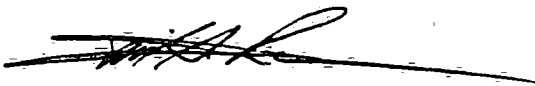
There exists a grave shadow circling over this troubled country in our allowing the religious right, or any other group for that matter, to dictate the values we choose to guide our individual lives. Certainly, we need to address and correct far too many dark national social ills. But to stifle others in the pursuit of our own ideals of truth and beauty is not the answer.

This country is great only because of our incredible diversity. It is the rainbow of our multicultural personality that gives our nation the texture in the tapestry of the fabric of our social and artistic being. A few very vocal Senators and Congressmen are trying to tell us not only what our personal and communal values should be, but what we should or should not tolerate in others. Whether we appreciate the "deviant" art they abhor or not, at the very least we must understand that there are a significant number of tax-paying, voting citizens of our great country who do. They are entitled to explore the boundaries of their own imaginations.

It is also quite possible that those most despised in our society, may in fact have the very answers needed for so many of our most pressing problems. Art is the garden of ideas from which springs forth the innovation and inspiration of our future. Art simply reflects and challenges our society in the staggering hope-against-fate hope that we will somehow in our collaborations between artist and audience citizens, stumble upon the sacred answers to a better tomorrow. Only together, rather than apart, can we play a positive role in making our world a better place.

On behalf of my own children, I implore the elected safekeepers of our flame of democracy to finally grasp the reins of responsible leadership before it is too late and fund the artists of our society at a level that will insure the inspiration of so many future generations to come. Go down in history as the saviors of a civilization, rather than as those who cowardly acquiesced to permit its destruction.

Very truly yours,



David S. Rosenak
Executive Director

cc: Members of the United States Senate
Members of the House of Representatives