

2017

Biddle, Livingston: National Medal of Arts (1994): Speech 01

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The National Council on the Arts and staff of the National Endowment for the Arts express their everlasting gratitude and appreciation to Livingston Biddle.

As a founding partner, as a steadfast advocate, and as a dedicated leader, he has contributed significantly to the creation and development of the National Endowment for the Arts and thus has greatly benefited the arts in America, enriching the lives of all Americans, and in enhancing the quality of our culture.

Staunchly dedicated to "access to the best", he has been cosmopolitan rather than parochial in seeking quality. His aesthetic judgment has been rigorous but open to that which is new and that which is different.

Coming from the Main Line, he has been concerned with Main Street throughout the land. He has been committed to providing all of America with access to the richness of our country's finest art.

Open-hearted as well as open-minded, he has encouraged us and counseled us to be venturesome in the exciting world of the arts. Never afraid of the accomplishment of others, he has embraced a diverse constituency with warmth and understanding. An artist with words, his prose both stimulates and heals.

As his colleagues and friends we express to him our abiding affection.