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Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Speech 04

Peter Goldmark

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Statement by Peter Goldmark, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, given to AP at 11:25 am, Tuesday, April 25, 1989 (grantee: Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art).

The Awards for Visual Artists began in 1980 and has given recognition and support to 10 regional artists each year. Since its inception, this program has displayed the works of nearly a hundred artists; I am sorry that some people have been offended by one of the works in last year's exhibition.

I respect the right of any individual to object to a work of art, and the parallel right of artists to express themselves and of exhibitors to show works that they deem interesting and meritorious artistically. I think tolerance and mutual respect for such rights may be the qualities we most need in order to get along together on this planet.