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July 29, 1993

**STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
REGARDING THE
CHRISTIAN ACTION NETWORK DISPLAY**

Today, Members of Congress are being asked to view an assembly of photographs which has been put together by a special interest organization, the Christian Action Network (CAN). CAN purports that this makeshift collection is an accurate representation of the work of the National Endowment for the Arts. On the contrary, this unauthorized display not only misrepresents the funding decisions based on the agency's private citizen peer review process, but it distorts the real record of the Endowment in nurturing America's cultural heritage, stimulating economic resources, and making the arts more widely accessible throughout the nation.

Members of Congress who desire an accurate reflection of the Endowment's impact need only return to their districts where they will discover, if they haven't already, a wealth of cultural offerings that would not be possible without the support of the Endowment. Members can also sample from the table of diverse Endowment-sponsored programs currently taking place within Washington's metropolitan area.

In less than two weeks, the National Council on the Arts, the Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed advisory council to the Endowment, will make funding recommendations on the 100,000th grant in the history of the Arts Endowment. It is upon this legacy -- one that spans 28 years and 56 U.S. states and special jurisdictions -- that the National Endowment for the Arts should be judged.

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