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Reagan Administration: Funding Cuts News Articles (1981-1982): Response or Comment 03

William Peak

Alice J. King

See next page for additional authors

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Authors
William Peak, Alice J. King, and Irma Spencer

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In response to Lewis H. Lapham's "Why Patronize America's Mediocre Arts?" [op-ed, March 20], in which he states that "Americans have a talent for brilliant interpretation and performance, but they haven't got the knack for making works of art."

I disagree. For example: Mark Twain, Georgia O'Keeffe, T. S. Eliot, Nathaniel Hawthorne, James M. Whistler, Thomas Pynchon, Aaron Copeland, Herman Melville, Isadora Duncan, Edward Hopper, Charles Ives, William Gaddis, Albert Pinkham Ryder, Tennessee Williams, George Gershwin, Martha Graham, William Faulkner, Frank Lloyd Wright and Walt Whitman...just to name a few.

WILLIAM PEAK

Alexandria

With one sweep of his poison pen, Mr. Lapham not only denies us our cultural heritage, but undermines our future as well, for only in a nation that recognizes, values and supports the arts—with public as well as private dollars—will they flourish.

When the current administration proposes massive cuts in an already inadequate arts budget, that's no sign of relief Mr. Lapham hears; it's a mean of anguish.

IRMA SPENCER

Potomac