

# CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ARTIST JAMES ROSENQUIST HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT, SPECIAL SPEAKER AT CORCORAN COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN 2010 COMMECEMENT CEREMONY**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design Director and President Paul Greenhalgh and Dean and Provost Kirk Pillow announces today that the Corcoran will present artist James Rosenquist with an Honorary Degree at the 2010 CCA+D commencement ceremony. Rosenquist, one of today’s most iconic pop artists, will accept an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Fine Arts, and serve as special speaker at commencement on **Saturday, May 22 at 4:30 p.m.** at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

“The Corcoran is extraordinarily honored to recognize James Rosenquist’s exceptional contributions to the contemporary art world,” Pillow said. “We are thrilled that he will join our graduating seniors and their families during this special time of celebration.”

Annually, the Corcoran College of Art + Design honors an artist who has contributed significantly to the advancement of his or her discipline and to the collective body of related knowledge in the visual arts. Past recipients of this prestigious award include: Tim Gunn, fashion consultant (2009), Annie Leibovitz, photographer (2008), Phyllis Lambert, architect (2007), and Sally Mann, photographer (2006).



James Rosenquist  
Credit: Peter Foe

Born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, Rosenquist began his artistic career painting storage bins, grain elevators, gasoline tanks, and signs during his summers as a college student at the University of Minnesota. After receiving a scholarship to the Art Students League based in New York in 1955, Rosenquist studied with Morris

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Kantor, George Grosz, and Edwin Dickinson. Six years later, he painted *Zone* (1960-1961), his first studio painting to employ commercial painting techniques and fragmented advertising imagery, which would become staple features of his future oeuvre.

Rosenquist earned a living in the late 1950s as a billboard painter, later adapting those techniques for the large-scale paintings he began to produce in 1960. In 1962, he featured his first solo exhibition at the Green Gallery in New York. He soon earned international acclaim with his room-scale work, *F-111*, a site-specific wrap-around painting exhibited at the Leo Castelli Gallery in New York from April to May, 1965. Since then, Rosenquist has become known for his iconic overlapping, fragmented visual stories, evidently on display throughout his work.

In the 1970s, Rosenquist joined Marion Javits and Robert Rauschenberg in Washington, D.C. to lobby for legislation protecting artist's rights. He received an appointment to a six year term as member of the National Council on the Arts, Washington, D.C., in 1978, the same year that *F-111* was exhibited at the 38<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale. Between 1987 to 1988, Rosenquist was nominated and inducted into the American Academy and Institute of Art and Letters, New York and received the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement, Nashville, Tennessee.

Rosenquist's most recent work includes *James Rosenquist as the Haunch of Venison*, a major survey exhibition of the artist's painted works, which was featured in London from 2006 to 2007 as well as *James Rosenquist: The Speed of Light and Beyond* featured in 2007.

\*\*\*A reception immediately following the ceremony will be held in the Atrium of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The *2010 All-Senior Exhibition* will be on view during the reception.\*\*\*

#### **ABOUT THE CORCORAN COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN**

Centered on the idea of direct and intense creative education, the Corcoran College of Art + Design is the only four-year college of art and design in Washington, D.C., the nation's cultural capital. The Corcoran's vibrant and active undergraduate community includes more than 350 students pursuing a wide range of Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts, and Associate of Fine Arts degrees. The College also offers graduate programs in design, art and the book, art history, and art education, while the College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for pre-college students and adults.

For more information about the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design, visit [www.corcoran.org](http://www.corcoran.org).

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