

Medal of Arts was first accorded in 1983, more than 200 extraordinary patrons and artists in the fields of visual, performing and literary arts have been honored. In that time period, four architects and designers with whom Knoll has collaborated have received the award: Isamu Noguchi (1987), Robert Venturi (1992), Frank Gehry (1998) and, most recently, Florence Knoll Bassett (2002). That Knoll artists have been represented on no fewer than four occasions in the 20 years since the award's inception affirms our ongoing commitment to collaboration with independent designers who challenge convention with creativity, imagination and vision.

The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government. It is awarded by the President of the United States to individuals or groups who, in his judgment, "...are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States."

We are honored to have worked with the remarkable architects and designers who have been recognized by this venerable institution and who continue to inspire us to sustain the innovation, service and design vision that define the Knoll experience. They are among the leaders, inventors, makers and thinkers whose collaborative approach to design informs our past, present and future.

Kass Bradley

President and CEO, Knoll North America

A BITSTS TELL AMERICA'S story in ways that transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. They create the words and images, songs and settings that imbue our most common moments with uncommon meaning. Art possesses the power not only to lift out hearts buy also to lift our eyes to envision the possibilities of tomorrow, Artists help us understand what it means to be fully human.

America is a nation founded on the freedom of the imagination. As this year's awards demonstrate, it is a place where children from rural Texas or urban Detroit, and immigrants from Germany, China, or France, can help reshape our sense of the world through the ingenuity, dedication, and originality. The stories of these artists demonstrate the magnificent range of America's energy and creativity.

With the presentation of the 2002 National Medal of Arts, our nation's highest award for creativity, we recognize nine master artists and teachers. Their remarkable lifetime achievements constitute a priceless gift to future generations. Their work in dance and drama, song and stagecraft, design and drawings, memorials and museums has enriched our culture.

We celebrate these remarkable people and thank them for their indispensable contributions to nourishing the

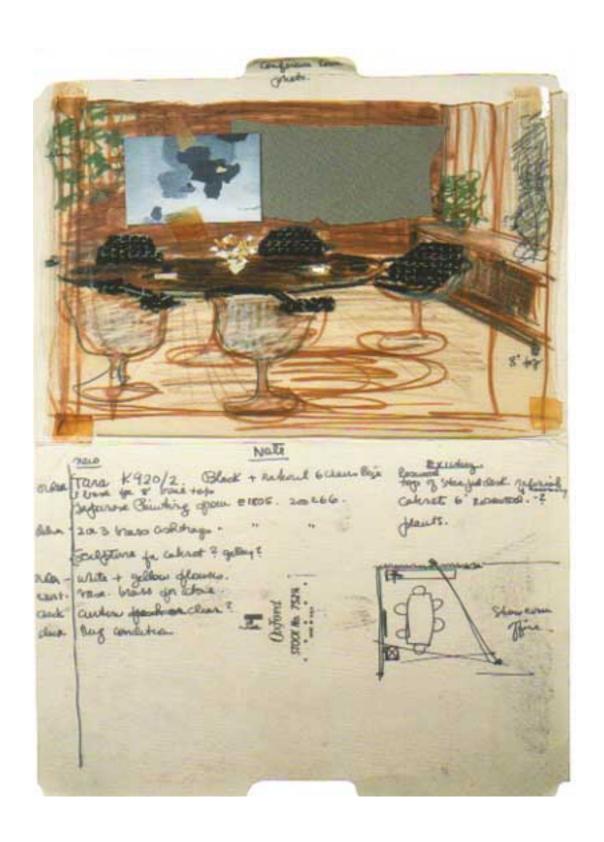
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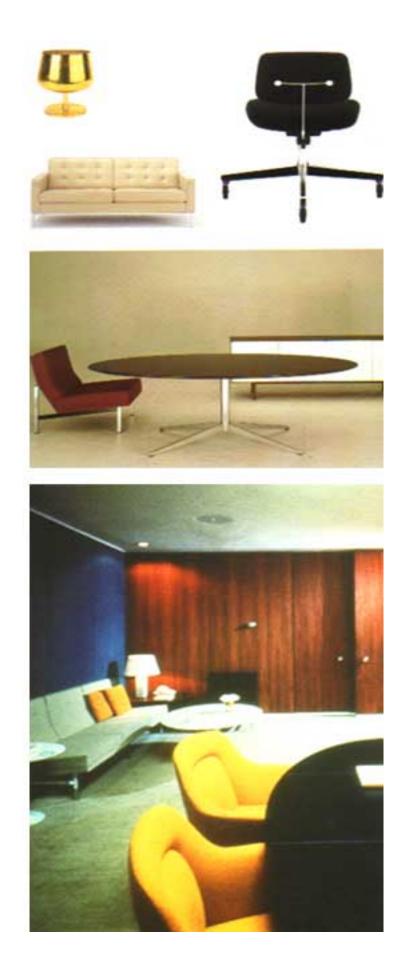
Dana Gioia Chairman

National Endowment for the Arts

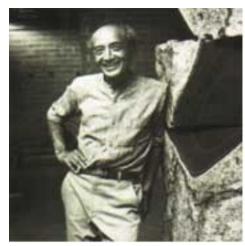
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Robert Venturi & Denise Scott - Brown



Frank O Gehry



* Excerpts from article written by: Melissa Milgrom