

News Release



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C-SPAN AIRS PANEL DISCUSSION ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF ART

Washington, D.C., October 2 -- As Congress grapples with the issue of limiting federal subsidies for "indecent art", C-SPAN will air a discussion entitled "The Impact of Government on the Arts: Money, Legislation, and Censorship" on **Sunday, October 8, at 9:30pm ET/6:30pm PT.**

The discussion will include panelists Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (D-OH), Roger Mandle, deputy director of the National Gallery of Art, and John Walsh, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The event is sponsored by ArtTable, Inc., a New York based women's art organization.

The issue came to the forefront this past summer when the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. cancelled an exhibit of the works of photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. The show featured some homoerotic photographs, and the museum cancelled it for fear it might lose its government funding.

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) then called for a ban on public funding of art deemed "indecent" or that "denigrates" a race, religion, ethnic background, age, or handicap. Opponents of the amendment claimed its broad interpretation amounted to censorship. On Friday, September 29, a House-Senate conference committee finally adopted a tighter provision forbidding federal funding of "obscene art", meaning art deemed to be without significant literary, artistic, political, or scientific merit.

Sunday, October 8

ArtTable, Inc. discussion
"The Impact of Government on the Arts:
Money, Legislation, and Censorship"

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