

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2006

MEDIA CONTACT
Erin Hogan
Department of Public Affairs
(312) 443-3664 ehogan@artic.edu

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO ANNOUNCES

NEW CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John H. Bryan Gives Helm to Thomas J. Pritzker

The Art Institute of Chicago announces the election of **Thomas J. Pritzker** to replace **John H. Bryan** as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the governing board of both the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Art Institute of Chicago. Bryan, who has served for seven years as Chairman, has been a trustee of the Art Institute since 1983 and will now become a Life Trustee. Pritzker, who assumes leadership of the Board of Trustees immediately, has been a trustee of the Institute since 1988.

“I am very pleased to have played a part in the exciting developments at the Art Institute in recent years,” said Bryan. “The institution is financially strong; the Modern Wing, thanks to excellent progress on the capital campaign, is going up before our eyes; and the enrollment at the number-one ranked fine art school continues to increase as it expands its graduate programs and facilities. I have no doubt that Tom Pritzker will carry forward this momentum and sense of mission into the next decade, into opportunities and prospects we haven’t yet even recognized.”

“John Bryan’s contributions to the Art Institute have been immeasurable,” said Pritzker. “I share his optimism about the future of the School and the museum. We are on the cusp of a truly new era for the Art Institute—a new era visible in everything from the brand new Department of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects at the School to the foundations being

poured for the Modern Wing. The Art Institute, founded in the nineteenth century, has kept pace with the times for more than 100 years, and now we have the opportunity to set the standard, both as a museum and as an educational institution, for the twenty-first century.”

Bryan, a native of Mississippi, is the retired chairman and CEO of Sara Lee Corporation. He became president and director of Sara Lee Corporation in 1974 and chairman of the board of the company in 1976. He served as CEO from 1975 to 2000 and as chairman until his retirement in 2001. Bryan has always been very active in the arts. In addition to his leadership at the Art Institute, he led a \$100 million fund-raising campaign to renovate Chicago’s Orchestra Hall and Lyric Opera House, and Chicago’s Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed him the chairman of a private development project to build Millennium Park on Chicago’s lakefront. He is also past chairman of the National Trust Council of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the past chairman of the Business Committee for the Arts, a national organization dedicated to the support of the arts.

Under Bryan’s leadership, the Art Institute embarked upon one of the most ambitious museum building campaigns in the country as well as one of the largest capital campaigns in the history of Chicago cultural institutions. The institution finished the fiscal year with an operating surplus of \$8.2 million and its highest total ever—\$82.5 million—of gifts, grants, and bequests. Bryan has also directly supported many initiatives of both the School and the museum. At the museum, he and his wife Neville have endowed several positions, including the John H. Bryan Curator of Architecture and Design and the Neville Bryan Curator of Design. Bryan has also been a staunch supporter of preservation education, evidenced in his endowment of the John H. Bryan Professorship in the Historic Preservation of Architecture in the School’s graduate program.

Thomas J. Pritzker will become the new chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute effective today, November 13. Born and raised in Chicago, Pritzker is chairman and CEO of The Pritzker Organization and Global Hyatt

Corporation, a worldwide hotel chain. He is also chairman of The Marmon Group, Inc., a diversified manufacturing concern with \$6 billion of revenues, and a founder and chairman of the board of directors of Bay City Capital, LLC (a merchant bank specializing in biotech). He is on the board of directors of Royal Caribbean Cruises LTD and is a member of The Business Council, a national organization of CEOs.

At the Art Institute, Pritzker has been a Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees since 1999 as well as the chairman of the Committee on Asian Art from 1989 to 2006. He recently endowed the position of the Pritzker Chair of Asian and Ancient Art at the museum.

#

The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park.

NEW FALL/WINTER MUSEUM HOURS

10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Thursday. **Ford Free Evenings after 5:00 p.m.**

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday.

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Please check www.artic.edu before your visit.

Admission: Adults, \$12.00; children, students, and seniors, \$7.00; children under 12 free. Members always free. Ford Free Evenings are free to all, except for certain special exhibitions that may require full or extra admission fee. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Check Us Out" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including The Art Institute of Chicago. To reach the Art Institute on the World Wide Web, contact us at:

<http://www.artic.edu/aic>

The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.