

November 16, 2006

Contact:

Libby Garrison, 415.357.4177, lgarrison@sfmoma.org
Robyn Wise, 415.357.4172, rwise@sfmoma.org
Sandra Farish Sloan, 415.357.4174, ssloan@sfmoma.org

**MODERN ART COUNCIL HONORS WAYNE THIEBAUD WITH BAY AREA
TREASURE AWARD AT SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

What On Wednesday, January 31, the Modern Art Council of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) will host the **2006 Bay Area Treasure Award** luncheon, honoring esteemed painter and printmaker **Wayne Thiebaud**. Organized by the Modern Art Council, SFMOMA's premier fund-raising auxiliary, this annual lifetime achievement award recognizes Bay Area artists who continually define and redefine contemporary art. Thiebaud is the seventh honoree; previous award recipients are painters Robert Bechtle and Nathan Oliveira, industrial designer Sara Little Turnbull, architect Lawrence Halprin, and photographers Ruth Bernhard and Larry Sultan.

A retrospective of Thiebaud's work presented in conjunction with the Museum's 50th anniversary in 1985 was met with great enthusiasm by the city of San Francisco. As SFMOMA approaches its 75th anniversary, it is proud once again to honor Thiebaud's extraordinary contributions to the Bay Area.

Proceeds from the 2006 Bay Area Treasure Award benefit the Museum's exhibitions and public programs.

Who Event Chair: Karen Eichler
Modern Art Council President: Sara K. Cumbelich

When Wednesday, January 31, 2007
11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Where San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
151 Third Street, San Francisco
Lecture and presentation: Phyllis Wattis Theater
Luncheon: Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Atrium

Tickets \$5,000 Grand Benefactor Table
\$350 Individual Benefactor
\$200 Individual Supporter

More For tickets or more information, please call the Modern Art Council at 415.357.4125.

Sponsors Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation and The CAC Group;
award courtesy of Tiffany & Co.; wine courtesy of David Noyes and Chalk Hill Winery

About the Artist

more

Born in 1920 in Mesa, Arizona, Thiebaud established his interest in art as a young man, studying commercial art and becoming an animation artist for Disney at age 16. While serving in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, Thiebaud put his skills to work as a mapmaker and a cartoonist for the GI newspaper. After his discharge in 1945, he worked as a commercial illustrator. He began his formal artistic studies at San Jose State University, then transferred to California State University, Sacramento, where he finished both bachelor's and master's degrees in studio art and art education.

By 1960 Thiebaud had developed a distinctive visual vocabulary centered around food. Depictions of everyday Americana—sandwiches, gumball machines, toys, cafeteria foods, and, famously, cakes and pies—reflect his focus on the ubiquitous yet anonymous objects of American culture. In 1962 his work was exhibited in the Sidney Janis exhibition *The New Realism*, which initiated the Pop art movement; in the wake of that exhibition, Thiebaud's name surfaced regularly in discussions of recognized and emerging Pop artists. In the 1970s and 1980s, he moved away from delicatessen paintings and on to San Francisco landscapes, using fragmented memories to create a distinct representation of the city.

In 2001 a retrospective of Thiebaud's work was organized by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and today his paintings are on view at almost every major modern art museum in the United States, including SFMOMA, which owns more than 65 of his works. In addition, he has garnered acclaim as a distinguished teacher, having taught at the University of California, Davis, Cornell University, and the Academy of Art College, among others. Thiebaud, now 86, continues to paint at his studio in Sacramento, California.

* * *

Museum hours: Open daily (except Wednesdays): 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; open late Thursdays, until 8:45 p.m. Summer hours (Memorial Day to Labor Day): Open at 10 a.m. Closed Wednesdays and the following public holidays: New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas. The Museum is open the Wednesday between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Koret Visitor Education Center: Open daily (except Wednesdays): 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; open late Thursdays, until 8:30 p.m. Summer hours: Open at 10 a.m.

Admission prices: Adults \$12.50; seniors \$8; students \$7. SFMOMA members and children 12 and under are admitted free. Thursday evenings after 6 p.m. admission is half-price. The first Tuesday of each month admission is free.

SFMOMA is easily accessible by Muni, BART, Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans, and Caltrain. Hourly, daily, and monthly parking is available at the SFMOMA Garage at 147 Minna Street. For parking information, call 415.348.0971.

Visit our Web site at www.sfmoma.org or call 415.357.4000 for more information.

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is supported by a broad array of contributors who are committed to helping advance its mission as a dynamic center for modern and contemporary art. Major annual support is provided by the Koret Foundation Funds, Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, and Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. KidstART free admission for children 12 and under is made possible by Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Thursday evening half-price admission is sponsored by Banana Republic.

#