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CCAC Confers Honorary Doctorates at Ninety-third Commencement

CCAC conferred honorary doctorate degrees on sculptor Viola Frey and philanthropist Phyllis Wattis at the College's commencement exercises held Saturday, May 13, at the Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco. Maxwell Anderson, director of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, delivered the commencement address to 225 graduating students.

Viola Frey was honored for her impassioned commitment to CCAC students and her inspirational drive to nurture their creative spirits. A longtime professor and former chair of CCAC's Ceramics Department, in 1999 Frey received CCAC's Founder's Day Award and was named professor emeritus. Her colorful, larger-than-life-sized figures have been exhibited widely and can be found in many private and public collections.

For decades Phyllis Wattis has used her visionary philanthropy to help shape the cultural landscape of the Bay Area. In addition to her financial contributions, she has served on the boards of several major Bay Area cultural institutions. Wattis is also known for her support of new and innovative projects, as well as programs and environments that nurture young artists. Her generous donation to the CCAC Institute enabled the College to present ten widely acclaimed exhibitions and thirty-five educational programs, as well as CCAC's first Capp Street Project residency.

Well known for his commitment to collaboration among museums, Maxwell Anderson has long worked for changes in federal legislation to assure tax equity for artists; changes in international conventions and treaties to permit the free international circulation of artworks; and the creation of networked databases accessible to educators and the art museum community. A trustee of the American Federation of Arts and the Association of Art Museum Directors, Anderson was a 1999 Cultural Laureate of the New York City Historic Landmarks Preservation Center.







Left to right: Viola Frey, Phyllis Wattis, and Maxwell Anderson

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