



For Immediate Release:

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**SFMOMA'S MODERN ART COUNCIL HONORS MANUEL NERI WITH
BAY AREA TREASURE AWARD**

What On Wednesday, November 12, the Modern Art Council of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) will host the **2008 Bay Area Treasure Award** luncheon, honoring esteemed artist **Manuel Neri**. 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. Neri is the ninth honoree; previous award recipients are painters Robert Bechtle, Nathan Oliveira, and Wayne Thiebaud; sculptor Richard Serra; industrial designer Sara Little Turnbull; architect Lawrence Halprin; and photographers Ruth Bernhard and Larry Sultan.

Proceeds from the 2008 Bay Area Treasure Award benefit the Museum's exhibitions and public programs.

Who Event Chair: Jill Barnett
Modern Art Council President: Dolly Chammas

When Wednesday, November 12, 2008 • Noon

Where St. Regis San Francisco
125 Third Street
Artist Discussion and Luncheon: Noon

Tickets \$7,500 Grand Benefactor tables
\$5,000 Benefactor tables
\$3,500 Patron tables
\$500 Benefactors
\$350 Patrons

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

Sponsors Bay Area Treasure is made possible by major support from Wells Fargo. Generous support also provided by Ryan Associates.

About the Artist

Manuel Neri is internationally celebrated as one of the preeminent figurative sculptors working today. Esteemed for his work in a broad palette of media ranging from plaster and clay to bronze

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and marble, his richly textured surfaces are often sanded, chipped, or painted with bold brushstrokes. Focusing on the female figure, his sculptural work blends seamlessly with his related, and equally expressive, paintings and works on paper. Associated with the Bay Area Figurative movement of the 1950s and 60s, he has nurtured a lifelong avocation for modern poetry, which perhaps has shaped his sensibilities as much as any visual art. Neri has spent his lifetime creatively exploring color, form, and material to produce figurative works of immense individuality and vitality.

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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 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.

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