

# Stavros Niarchos Foundation Makes Landmark Gift to Yale School of Art

SINCE HE CAME TO YALE IN 2006, DEAN Robert Storr has maintained that a thoroughly international orientation is essential to art education. The aim, he says, is to establish the School of Art as the American program most open to bringing together art, artists, and students from the U.S. and abroad.

In January, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation rewarded this focus with a generous gift that will advance the school's leadership and presence in the global fine arts community. The gift creates a permanent, unrestricted endowment to support core priorities of the School of Art, while naming in perpetuity the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Dean.

The foundation also made a second gift to supplement its three existing endowments for the school, which were created by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation in 2010 to establish an artist's residency, scholarships for international students, and a dean's resource fund.

With these grants, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's contributions to Yale total nearly \$14 million. In 2007, the foundation helped establish the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for Hellenic Studies at Yale University; it has also supported the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization, Yale College scholarships, the Peabody Museum of Natural History, and the Child Study Center.

"I am deeply grateful for these latest contributions from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation," said President Salovey. "The foundation has our admiration and respect for its generous support of the

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arts worldwide. These gifts to the Yale School of Art will help to support the education of artists and the practice of art for years to come."

In making its gifts, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation cited Storr's accomplishments as a critic, artist, and educator.

Andreas C. Dracopoulos, the foundation's director and co-president, said, "Robert Storr's exceptional artistic insight, leadership abilities, and character came to our notice during his time at the Museum of Modern Art, and they have been equally evident in his tenure at Yale. We are pleased to support his work at the Yale School of Art, as well as the efforts of future deans who will follow him."



### Critical support for art education

The foundation's gift of unrestricted endowment will allow the dean to direct funds to key areas such as financial aid, faculty support, teaching, visiting artists, and exhibitions. By naming the deanship, the gift will further help the school attract a succession of world-class artists to fill its leadership post.

"The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is one of our most generous benefactors, and I am both delighted and humbled by these contributions," said Dean Storr. "The new endowments provide a permanent source of flexible funding that will help the school sustain its innovative teaching and practice at the forefront of art and art education."

Among the world's leading international philanthropic organizations, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation makes grants in four major areas:

arts and culture, education, health and medicine, and social welfare. Since the commencement of its grant-making activities in 1996, the foundation has awarded funds in excess of \$1.4 billion to nonprofit organizations in 110 countries around the globe.

### The first of its kind

In 1869, when Yale opened its School of the Fine Arts, it was the first art school in the country associated with an institution of higher learning. Today, the Yale School of Art provides undergraduate and graduate students with intellectually informed, hands-on instruction in the practice of the visual arts. Operating within the context of a liberal arts university, the school regards art as a fundamental force in national and international culture. ■

*Dean Storr instructs students in a drawing class.*