

NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY

75 VARICK STREET, 11TH FLOOR • NEW YORK, NY 10013

212.764.5645 fax: 212.764.5651 www.nationalsculpture.org

• *Established 1893* •

James J. Jennewein will Receive Society's Medal of Honor

February 25, 2013 - New York, New York – The National Sculpture Society (NSS) will present the Medal of Honor to James Jennewein on Saturday, May 18 at its annual Honors and Awards Dinner, to be held in Tampa, Florida this year. This is the Society's highest award, presented only as the occasion arises, for encouragement of American Sculpture. Jennewein is a strong supporter of American Sculpture who has sponsored museum exhibitions, underwritten the acquisition costs of works for museums, and actively serves on volunteer boards of numerous cultural institutions throughout the country.

Son of the noted American sculptor, C. Paul Jennewein, James Jennewein was exposed to artists and arts professionals from an early age. He received his architectural degree at Syracuse University in New York; post graduate work included studies at Stuttgart University where he was a Fulbright Scholar. Back in the United States, he and his young family ultimately made Tampa their permanent home in the 1960s – where he subsequently contributed significantly to the urban landscape in that city.

Jennewein is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), past president of the Florida Central Chapter of the AIA, past president of the Florida Association of the AIA, past president of the Florida State Board of Architecture, and partner in his own architectural firm in Tampa, Florida. He is the architect of record for the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center (now called the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts), where he will be presented with the NSS Medal of Honor when the NSS has its annual Awards Dinner at Maestro's in May.

His talent and leadership extend well beyond the sphere of architecture; cultural institutions have also benefited extensively from Jennewein's time and generosity. He is a member of Tampa's Chamber of Commerce (and past Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee); the Tampa/Hillsborough Arts Council; past president of the Tampa Bay Arts Center; the Board of Directors of the Tampa Museum of Art (he served as president of the Board in 1986); a Board Director and past Vice President of the National Sculpture Society; and a retired Trustee of Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina.

As a former member of the Board of Trustees at Brookgreen Gardens, Jennewein encouraged a stronger bond between NSS and Brookgreen, which led to an honorary position for the president of NSS on Brookgreen's Board of Directors. In fact, Jennewein was the motivating force behind several programs that have simultaneously benefited arts institutions and artists. With his suggestion and encouragement, National Sculpture Society's 74th Annual Awards Exhibition travelled to the Tampa Museum of Art in 2007; the exhibit was sponsored locally by Jim and Joan Jennewein in memory of C. Paul Jennewein. At his suggestion and with his support, the 80th Annual Awards Exhibition will open to the public at the Tampa Museum of Art this year on May 18. Jennewein is also responsible for introducing NSS to the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, the largest performing arts complex south of the Kennedy Center, hosting well over 500,000 visitors a year. 2013 marks the third year that the Straz Center will host "Performance in Sculpture" showcasing works of sculptors from around the country in their magnificent lobby, in collaboration with NSS.

In 1893 leading U.S. sculptors and architects founded the National Sculpture Society to "spread the knowledge of good sculpture" throughout the country. Founding members created most of this nation's public monuments at the turn of the last century. NSS was incorporated in 1896 and received tax-exemption status as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1939. Professional sculptors and architects continue to lead the organization in fulfilling its mission today.

The awards dinner will be held as part of the annual NSS Sculpture Celebration Weekend, May 17-18. For more information about James Jennewein, the awards dinner, or the Sculpture Celebration Weekend, please contact Gwen Pier: gwen@nationalsculpture.org or 212-764-5645 ext. 15.