



Susan News
Director, VCCA 40th Anniversary Events
804/349-6397
susannews@msn.com

CONTACT:
Lexie Boris
Communications Director
434/946-7236
lboris@vcca.com

VCCA KICKS OFF 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT APELLA AT ALEXANDRA CENTER

Amherst, VA (March 15, 2011) – One of the nation’s leading artist residencies, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA), kicks off the second in a year-long series of 40th anniversary celebrations with an April 7 event at the Apella at Alexandra Center in New York City. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will feature cocktails, an art auction and special recognition of VCCA Advisory Council members, four of whom will be in attendance: Teresita Fernández, Alice McDermott, Naomi Wolf and the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Del Tredici, who will give a special performance. Senator Mark R. Warner and Lisa Collis are chairs of the year-long celebration.

“For 40 years, VCCA has awarded fellowships to more than 4,000 of this century’s most exceptional writers, composers and visual artists,” said Senator Warner. “VCCA is a national treasure. When you consider the award-winning work that artists have produced while in residence at the Center, it is clear that VCCA has served as an incubator for some truly great art.”

Located in Amherst, Va., VCCA is one of the foremost working retreats for writers, artists and composers, and one of the few with locations on two continents. Each year, more than 350 artists from around the world visit the VCCA campus to further their art. VCCA Fellows have won nearly every major artistic distinction, including the Pulitzer Prize, Grammy, Guggenheim Fellowship, Rome Prize, National Book Award, Academy Award nomination, and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

Founded in Charlottesville in 1971, the VCCA is supported in large part by grants and private donations. Guided by the conviction that art nourishes individuals and civilization, the Center provides a supportive environment in a residential setting for superior national and international visual artists, writers and composers of all cultural and economic backgrounds to pursue their creative work.

For more information, or to purchase tickets to the 40th anniversary event in New York, please visit the VCCA website at www.vcca.com.

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