



## THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

November 10, 2018

Dear Friend,

I write you this year in the midst of a particularly difficult fall. In such a context, glimpses of hope, and of the hard-working people who bring it to us, are unspeakably precious. They expand our sense of commonality and community. They help us stay the course. I am therefore pleased to be able to share a few glimpses of courageous, creative, dedicated people and the work they are doing in the enclosed Annual Review.

This fall, the Roth Endowment is celebrating the 90th birthday of its founder, Richard T. Arndt. As Dick marks this milestone, it is clear his original vision—to support and deepen international cultural exchanges and awareness on a human scale—is as, if not more important and effective than ever. In Dick's honor, an anonymous donor has come forward, for a second year in a row, with a \$5,000 matching challenge to encourage alumni and new donors to join the work we are doing!

**If we raise \$2,500 in gifts from alumni and new donors by December 22,  
they will be matched 2-to-1!**

NB: Last fall's matching challenges significantly raised the number of new and alumni donations we received. It doesn't take much—even \$35 makes a difference—but the commitment matters a lot! We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity and consider raising your contribution this year.

Our 2018 Program Summary is below. Once again, we are grateful for the superb management of our assets, which makes our work possible. Thanks to our long-term advisors Shawn O'Reilly, founder of RBC's The Columbia Group, and his deputy Emily Ferry, our endowment continued its steady rise, up 10.98% over the course of our 2018 fiscal year (7/17-6/18), to end at an all-time high of \$777,564!

Thank you for your sustained interest and commitment. As you know, we rely on friends like you to help us further international cultural dialogue on a human scale. Please contribute, at whatever level. If you are in a position to do so, please contact me about making an annual gift or living bequest.

With warm wishes for a lovely holiday season

Skyler J. Arndt-Briggs  
Chair

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Robin W. Winks\* (1930 - 2003)  
Jeffery Yablou

## 2018 Roth Endowment Program Summaries

*Read more about these people and projects  
in the enclosed Annual Review and on our website!*

Our Cultural Diplomacy Awards continue to gain steam, thanks to the leadership of Board member Anne Barbaro. This year we had no fewer than nine worthy award-winners and inaugurated a new award! The keystone Lois Roth Award went to Cultural Affairs Officer Margot Carrington, with Honorable Mentions to Monica Davis and Robin Solomon. Our Ilchman-Richardson Award went to Sana Abed-Kotob, and our new Emeritus Award for lifetime achievement in Cultural Diplomacy went to Mark Taplin. We were very happy that all of the winners of the Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Award were also able to attend the award ceremony in Washington on August 6, 2018, thanks to the commitment of their respective U.S. Embassies and Consulates: Felix Mbatlbaye, from N'Djamena, Chad; Nadia Ouhenia, from Algiers, Algeria; and Honorable Mentions Marketa Kolarova from Prague, Czech Republic, and Carmen Urcuyo from Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Project Support Awards were granted for eight great projects. Administered by Board member Laurie Weitzenkorn, these awards are given in collaboration with five Fulbright Commissions and the American Scandinavian Foundation. This year's projects include work on: Finnish anti-bullying programs; Australian and Barbadian Indigenous health; prison architecture; the international cross-fertilization of fin-de-siècle artists; and the journalistic investigation of human and labor rights in commodity supply chains. Such work is heartening... and worthy of our support!

Our 2018 Translation Awards included those administered by the Modern Language Association (MLA) and by the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation (ekf); the jury of the Persian Translation Prize reports that their next winner will be chosen in the next few months. The MLA-Roth Award went to the translation into English of Máirtín Ó Cadhain's Irish classic, *Graveyard Clay/Cré na Cille*, with Honorable Mentions for translations of *Zama*, by Antonio Di Benedetto, and *Mount Pleasant*, by Patrice Nganang. The Dyankov Award went to the translation into Bulgarian of Ian McEwan's novel, *The Children Act*, with second place to the translation of Siri Hustvedt's *The Blazing World*. For the first time, we also collaborated with ekf to bring a Bulgarian translator for a three-week fellowship at Open Letter Books in Rochester, NY.

Among our Sponsored Programs, the Millon Award for research in architectural history at the Center for Advanced Study into the Visual Arts (CASVA) was on hiatus last year. It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Henry A. Millon, in whose honor the award was created. Hank was a founding Board member of the Roth Endowment, as well as the founder of CASVA, in collaboration with which we are planning to enhance this award in recognition of Hank's contributions, starting with our 2019 award cycle. In June 2018, the Fulbright Legacy Lectures were delivered by economist Lord Nicholas Stern, Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate. Focusing on the enormity of the issue, Stern spoke about what it will take to make the 21st century "the best" instead of "the worst of centuries." The Roth Endowment was ably represented at the lectures by my brother, Matthew Arndt, a climate and transportation specialist. Also in June, the successful 11th edition of the Sozopol Fiction Seminar took place in the scenic Black Sea coastal town, preceded by annual CapitalLiterature events in Sophia, Bulgaria.

*Please let us know if you prefer to receive our Annual Review and Letter via email:  
[contact@rothendowment.org](mailto:contact@rothendowment.org)*