

Press Contacts

Patrick Milliman
212.590.0310, pmilliman@themorgan.org
Sandra Ho
212.590.0311, sho@themorgan.org

**William M. Griswold, Director of New York's Morgan Library & Museum,
Honored by French Government for Contributions to the Arts**

New York, NY, September 18, 2008—On September 18, William M. Griswold, Director of The Morgan Library & Museum, received a major award from the French government in recognition of his important contributions to cultural exchange between France and the United States.

At a reception at the Morgan marking the opening of *Drawing Babar: Early Drafts and Watercolors*, a special exhibition devoted to the popular French children's books, French Cultural Counselor Kareen Rispal conferred upon Dr. Griswold the insignia of chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters.

Dr. Griswold's work with the French Regional & American Museum Exchange was of particular note in his selection for the award. The coalition, called FRAME, fosters bilateral exchanges between French and American regional art museums. This includes loans of works of art and partnerships in technology, research, and other initiatives designed to make the resources of the member museums available to a wider public. From 2005 to 2007, Dr. Griswold was Director and President of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, a member of FRAME.

"I am deeply grateful and honored to receive this distinction," Dr. Griswold said. "France and the United States have a long and distinguished history of cultural exchange, and I am happy to have helped further it through the French Regional & American Museum Exchange.

"In my current position as director of The Morgan Library & Museum, I will continue to look for opportunities to share the cultural riches of our two countries. The Babar exhibition—which celebrates the creation of two great French artists as well as a fictional character of universal appeal—is a wonderful example of this."

In presenting him with the award, Ms. Rispal said, "Dr. Griswold is a tireless promoter of the visual arts and has brought us many significant collaborations between the finest art institutions in France and

the United States, in particular through FRAME. As a curator and director, Dr. Griswold has always remained true to his commitment to design museums as lively places available to a wider public."

The Order of Arts and Letters was established in 1957 to recognize eminent artists, writers, and individuals who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world. Awards are given twice annually to only a few hundred people worldwide. Recent American recipients include Paul Auster, Ornette Coleman, Morgan Freeman, Marilyn Horne, Keith Jarrett, Richard Meier, Robert Paxton, Robert Redford, and Meryl Streep.

Dr. Griswold was appointed Director of the Morgan in 2007. Prior to his tenure at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, he was Acting Director and Chief Curator of the J. Paul Getty Museum, from 2004 to 2005; and Associate Director for Collections at the Getty, beginning in 2001.

Previously, Dr. Griswold had been Charles W. Engelhard Curator and Head of the Department of Drawings and Prints at the Morgan from 1995 to 2001. From 1988 to 1995, he was on the staff of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, first as Assistant and then as Associate Curator in the Department of Drawings and Prints.

Dr. Griswold was the co-author with Jacob Bean of *18th Century Italian Drawings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art* and has written extensively on Florentine drawings of the early Renaissance. He was a curator of the exhibition *Masterworks from the Musée des Beaux Arts, Lille*, at the Metropolitan in 1992.

Later, he oversaw the design and creation of the Morgan's Drawing Study Center, and in 1998 curated a historically significant exchange of exhibitions between the Morgan and The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, and the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow. In 1999 he co-curated of *New York Collects*, the Morgan's first major exhibition devoted to twentieth-century art, and in 2002 he was co-author with Jennifer Tonkovich of *Pierre Matisse and His Artists*.

Dr. Griswold currently serves on the boards of the American Foundation for The Courtauld Institute of Art, American Federation of Arts, and American Friends of the Shanghai Museum. He is a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors and has served as associate editor of *Master Drawings*, a scholarly journal to which he has also been a regular contributor.

Dr. Griswold earned his bachelor's degree at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, and his Ph.D. at The Courtauld Institute of Art, London.

THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. A century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405
212.685.0008
www.themorgan.org

HOURS

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Monday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

ADMISSION

\$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children, 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.