

Governor of Tennessee names John Baeder Distinguished Artist

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AUGUSTA, GA—John Baeder, one of America's most admired photorealist painters and the 2008 Morris Museum of Art Gala honoree, has been named a recipient of one of Tennessee's highest honors—the Governor's Award in the Arts for 2009. Established in 1971, the award will be presented by Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen and First Lady Andrea Conte in a special invitation-only ceremony produced by the Tennessee Arts Commission at Nashville's War Memorial Auditorium on April 14.

The Distinguished Artist Award recognizes artists of exceptional talent and creativity in any discipline, who over the course of a career, have contributed to the arts and have helped guide and influence directions, trends, and aesthetic practices on a state or national level. Recipients were selected from fifty-six nominees to receive awards in three different categories.



"We are pleased to join in the chorus of congratulations to John, an exceptional artist and good friend of this museum, on this singular honor," said Kevin Grogan, director of the Morris Museum of Art in Augusta, Georgia, and one of the executive producers of the documentary film, *Baeder: Pleasant Journeys and Good Eats along the Way*. "For many years, John's passionate interest in diners has led him

to his position as the preeminent chronicler of a uniquely American form of roadside architecture through his photographs and paintings. John is now as much an icon as the images he creates and the eateries he reveres."

"I am deeply honored and very touched by this award," said artist John Baeder. "Pinching myself, I'll be in Nashville twenty-nine years come September, thus qualifying me to be an official Tennessee artist. My gratitude to all who bestowed this accolade and let it be another beginning."