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NATIONAL ACADEMY ON THE SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS BY AAMD

New York, NY, October 18, 2010 – Carmine Branagan, Director of the National Academy issued the following statement today regarding the suspension of sanctions by Association of Art Museum Directors.

“We have been engaged in a constructive and positive dialogue with AAMD and appreciate the approach they have proposed. While it has been painful to operate under sanctions, we were compelled to confront and to address important challenges, and we are now unreservedly committed to never deaccessioning works from the collection for operating support or capital projects. We certainly welcome the opportunity to resume collaborations with our museum colleagues across the country and look forward to continuing discussion with AAMD as the National Academy moves ahead to a promising future and a revitalized role in the cultural life of our city.”

The imposition of sanctions dates to December 2008. In early 2009 the Academy began a comprehensive overhaul of its governance and policies and embarked on a nine-month process that resulted in a strategic plan designed to fortify its leadership, revitalize its programming, and achieve financial stability.

Founded in 1825, the National Academy is the only institution of its kind that integrates a museum, art school, and association of artists and architects dedicated to creating and preserving a living history of American Art. Modeled after the Royal Academy in London, the National Academy continues to pursue its original simple yet powerful mission to “promote the fine arts in America through instruction and exhibition.” The Academy is a continually evolving testament to the transformative power of art, an institution that sheds light on over 7,000 great works, a forum for education, intergenerational dialogue and debate, and a source of vibrant exhibitions.

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