

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “National Academy of Design, New York City, October 9, 1975” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1975

NEW YORK CITY

I AM VERY HONORED TO ACCEPT
YOUR SESQUINTENNIEL MEDAL
AND TO BECOME A FELLOW FOR LIFE
OF SUCH A SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN
IS NOTED FOR SOME VERY IMPORTANT "FIRSTS" --
YOU WERE THE FIRST NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS
AND THE FIRST ARTS SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNED EXCLUSIVELY BY PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS.
THESE ARE BOTH VERY IMPORTANT
IN THE WORLD OF ART.

BUT I THINK IT'S ALSO SIGNIFICANT
THAT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY
WAS THE FIRST ART ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES
OPEN TO WOMEN MEMBERS,
AND THE FIRST TO ACCEPT WOMEN STUDENTS.
FOR THESE "FIRSTS" I PERSONALLY THANK YOU.

TO THOSE OF YOU INVOLVED IN THE NATIONAL ACADEMY
I WANT TO SAY THAT YOUR PROFESSIONALISM,
YOUR WELL-KNOWN STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE,
AND ALL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLD OF ART
MAKES THIS HONOR ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO ME.

I WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY,
AND FOR THE SAKE OF QUALITY ART IN THE UNITED STATES,
MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY.

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