Columbia Announces Dyckman Institute Scholars for 2004–2005

Columbia has announced the Dyckman Institute Scholarship Fund winners for the 2004–2005 academic year. The Dyckman Institute Scholarship Fund provides financial support to outstanding Columbia College students from the Washington Heights-Inwood area who may not otherwise be able to afford college, to attend Columbia. Martin Collins, chair of Community Board 12, conveyed his congratulations to the scholarship winners. "We recognize the level of academic excellence these students have achieved and join in congratulating them and wishing them well as they continue their education at Columbia College," he said. "We also thank Columbia University and the Dyckman Scholarship for the opportunity this program creates for high school students from Washington Heights-Inwood to receive a first-class college education."

The Dyckman Institute Scholarship Fund is one of 90 individual need-based scholarships available to Columbia students. Its origins can be traced to Alexander Hamilton's widow, Eliza, who donated the building and land for the Hamilton Free School—the first school in Washington Heights—in 1818. In 1860, the school became the Dyckman Library, the first free public library in upper Manhattan. In the early 1920s, the library became the Dyckman Institute, which operated both a museum and a publishing house. The trustees of the Institute decided in 1943 to dissolve it and established a scholarship fund at Columbia College for Washington Heights-Inwood students.

In the current academic year, more than 50 undergraduate students from Washington Heights-Inwood are receiving more than $550,000 in need-based scholarships from Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Students from the Washington Heights-Inwood area who are interested in learning more about Columbia College and the Dyckman Institute Scholarship should contact the admissions office (at 212) 854-2522 or go to www.admissions.columbia.edu/admissions.

Rirkrit Tiravanija Wins Prestigious Hugo Boss Prize

Artist Rirkrit Tiravanija, whose installations have included serving Thai food to visitors, as well as reconstructing his apartment in a gallery and then encouraging his audience to hold a party there, once said, "It is not what you see that is important, but what takes place between people." Tiravanija’s ability to capture the intersection between art and life caught the eye of the jurors of the Guggenheim Foundation’s 2004 Hugo Boss Prize, which was recently awarded to Tiravanija, an associate professor of professional practice in the School of the Arts visual arts division. Tiravanija will receive a $50,000 grant, and the Guggenheim Museum will exhibit his work in early 2005.

Tiravanija’s innovative works embrace interactivity," said Bruce Ferguson, dean of Columbia University’s School of the Arts. "He is the prime figure in a new movement of contemporary art philosophy known as ‘relational aesthetics.’ We are delighted that his contribution to the art world has received this important recognition."


His work will be included in the Whitney Museum of American Art exhibition Small: The Object in Film, Video, and Slide Installation, which began on Nov. 18. The show, one of seven small-scale installations, runs through Feb. 6, 2005.

This year marks the fifth presentation of the prize: The Guggenheim Foundation offers the award—one of the premier juried prizes of the contemporary art world—on a biennial basis.

For more information about the prize and for a list past winners, go to www.huobosprize.com.