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The International Sculpture Center Honors World Renowned Sculptor Manuel Neri with a Lifetime Achievement Award

(Hamilton, NJ) The International Sculpture Center (ISC) will gather arts patrons and professionals from around the world to honor the life and work of famed sculptor **Manuel Neri**. Now in its 15th year, the **2006 Lifetime Achievement Award Gala** will take place **Wednesday, November 1st, 2006**, at the Tribeca Rooftop, located at Two Desbrosses Street, (between Greenwich and Hudson Street) in New York City. Speakers include **Mark di Suvero**, world renowned sculptor and past Lifetime Achievement Award winner and **Jack Cowart**, Executive Director of the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation, NY. The evening will include cocktails, dinner, and entertainment.

Manuel Neri was born in 1930 in Sanger, California. Neri is recognized for his life-size figurative sculptures in plaster, bronze, and marble, as well as for his association with the Bay Area Figurative movement during the 1960s. Since 1972, Neri has worked primarily with the same model, Mary Julia Klimenko, creating drawings and sculptures that merge contemporary sculptural concerns with classical forms. The anatomical skill of these works recalls the sculptures and drawings of Rodin, Giacometti and Degas. In Neri's work with the figure, he conveys an emotional inner state that is revealed through body language and gesture. In addition to his sculptural works in various media, Neri is known for his use of vibrant color in drawings and paintings on paper. In recent years, Neri has collaborated with other artists in creating limited-edition and unique artists' books.

Manuel Neri: The Figure in Relief, a selection of Neri's relief sculptures and related drawings, is on exhibit at Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey, from October 7, 2006 through April 19, 2007. Related exhibitions of Neri's works in the relief format will open at The Portland Art Museum, Oregon, in March 2007, and the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art later that year. These exhibitions coincide with the fall 2006 publication of a comprehensive book on Neri's relief works, with essays by Maxwell L. Anderson and Bruce Nixon, distributed by Hudson Hills Press.

The International Sculpture Center's Board of Directors established the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991 to recognize individual sculptors who have made exemplary contributions to the field of sculpture. Candidates for the award are masters of sculptural processes and techniques who have devoted their careers to the development of a laudable body of work, as well as to the advancement of the sculpture field as a whole. Past recipients include **Magdalena Abakanowicz, Louise Bourgeois, Sir Anthony Caro, Elizabeth Catlett, John Chamberlain, Eduardo Chillida, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Mark di Suvero, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, Nam June Paik, Gio' Pomodoro, Robert Rauschenberg, George Rickey, George Segal and Kenneth Snelson.**

Tickets for the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award Gala are \$500 and tables start at \$5,000. For further information, please contact Megan Santosusso, by calling 609.689.1051, extension 302, or via email at events@sculpture.org. All proceeds from the Gala benefit the programs and services of the International Sculpture Center.

The **International Sculpture Center (ISC)** is a member-supported, nonprofit organization founded in 1960 to advance the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique, vital contribution to society. Members include sculptors, collectors, patrons, architects, developers, journalists, curators, historians, critics, educators, foundries, galleries, and museums—anyone with an interest in and commitment to the field of sculpture. Please visit www.sculpture.org.

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