

**Laurie Anderson Selected to Receive
One of the Largest Awards in the Arts—The Gish Prize**

**The 2007 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize
November 13, 2007, New York City**

It is my desire... to give the recipients of the prize the recognition they deserve, to bring attention to their contributions to society and encourage others to follow in their path—Lillian Gish

New York (September 19, 2007)—The Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize Trust (JPMorgan Chase Bank, Trustee) and the Gish Prize Committee today announced the selection of **Laurie Anderson** as the recipient of the prestigious **2007 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize**, one of the largest awards in the arts. The multimedia performance artist, recognized for her groundbreaking use of technology, will be presented with a silver medallion and approximately \$300,000 on November 13, 2007, at the Hudson Theatre, Millennium Broadway, New York City. The Gish Prize, a legacy from silent film stars Dorothy and Lillian Gish, recognizes outstanding talents in the arts.

In her will, Lillian Gish specified that the prize should be awarded annually to “a man or woman who has made an outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world and to mankind’s enjoyment and understanding of life.” Now in its 14th year, the Gish Prize continues to reflect the spirit of the pioneering Gish sisters, paying tribute to artistic trailblazers who have redefined their craft and pushed the boundaries of excellence in their field. Recipients have shaped the cultural landscape in drama, music, dance, art, architecture, lighting design, film, and literature. (See full list of Gish Prize recipients below.) Today, the impact of Dorothy and Lillian Gish can be seen not only on the big screen but also in strong female voices such as that of Laurie Anderson.

When informed of her selection, Anderson said, “I feel very honored to be part of this wonderful tradition. The Gish Prize represents values I aspire to as an artist—innovation, beauty and exploration. I have tried to make work that speaks directly and soulfully to the challenges of living in a highly technological culture. I hope to use this prize to continue my work and to make it as sharp, accessible and beautiful as possible.”

The Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize

The Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize is one of the largest awards in the arts. Nominations are welcomed from the arts community and may be submitted through the Gish Prize website, <http://www.gishprize.com/>. The Gish Prize committee, a group that changes every year, considers all nominations and chooses each recipient. Composed of leaders in the arts community, the committee for this year includes Adele Chatfield-Taylor, president, American Academy in Rome; Agnes Gund, president emerita, Museum of Modern Art; Nigel Redden, director, Lincoln Center Festival; Catharine Stimpson, dean, Graduate School of Arts & Science, New York University; and, Mira Nair, filmmaker.

The Gish Prize was established in 1994 by the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize Trust and administered by JPMorgan Chase Bank as trustee. Stars of the silent screen, Dorothy and Lillian Gish brought their unique sensibilities and talents to early film, shaping the development of that art form. The sisters made their motion picture debut together in D.W. Griffith’s *An Unseen Enemy* in 1912 and went on to appear in over 100 films each. They also received accolades for their work on stage and in television. Lillian Gish died in 1993 and Dorothy Gish died in 1968. Their legacy lives on today in the Gish Prize, and in their desire “... to give the recipients of the prize the recognition they deserve, to bring attention to their contributions to society and encourage others to follow in their path.”

Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize Recipients:

- 2007 **Laurie Anderson**, multimedia performance artist
- 2006 **Shirin Neshat**, visual artist and filmmaker
- 2005 **Peter Sellars**, theater and opera director

- 2004 **Ornette Coleman**, jazz innovator
- 2003 **Bill T. Jones**, dancer/choreographer
- 2002 **Lloyd Richards**, theater director
- 2001 **Jennifer Tipton**, lighting designer
- 2000 **Merce Cunningham**, dancer/choreographer
- 1999 **Arthur Miller**, author/playwright
- 1998 **Isabel Allende**, author
- 1997 **Bob Dylan**, singer/songwriter
- 1996 **Robert Wilson**, artist/director
- 1995 **Ingmar Bergman**, film director
- 1994 **Frank Gehry**, architect

Laurie Anderson, 2007 Gish Prize Recipient

A seminal voice in the art world, Laurie Anderson is one of today's premier multimedia performance artists, known for her groundbreaking use of technology. Over the years she has captivated audiences with her innovative creations, serving various roles as visual artist, composer, poet, photographer, filmmaker, electronics aficionado, vocalist, and instrumentalist. Her work can be found on record, radio, and film soundtracks; accompanying dance and theater productions; and in books, museums, and on stage around the world. Her eclectic career includes an appointment in 2002 as the first artist-in-residence of NASA, out of which she developed her solo performance, *The End of the Moon*, and work on the opening ceremony for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Anderson first rose to fame with *O Superman*, a mesmerizing, minimalist song with half-spoken and half-sung lyrics offered in an electronically modified voice. The work topped the British pop charts at number two in 1980 and subsequently appeared on her 1982 album, *Big Science*, which was re-released this year. Anderson has made over ten albums including the box set *United States Live* (1984) and the soundtrack to her feature film *Home of the Brave* (1986). An anthology, *Talk Normal*, was released in 2000.

Over the years Anderson has toured internationally with shows ranging from simple spoken word performances to elaborate multi-media events. Major works include *United States I-V* (1983), *Empty Places* (1990), *The Nerve Bible* (1995), and *Songs and Stories for Moby Dick* (1999), a multimedia stage performance based on the Herman Melville novel.

As a composer, Anderson has contributed music to films by Wim Wenders and Jonathan Demme; scores to dance pieces by Bill T. Jones, Trisha Brown, Molissa Fenley; and a score for Robert LePage's theater production, *Far Side of the Moon*. Her most recent orchestra work, *Songs for A.E.*, premiered at Carnegie Hall in February 2000.

Anderson's visual work has been presented in major museums in the United States and Europe. In 2003, The Musée d' Art Contemporain of Lyon in France produced a touring retrospective of her work, *The Record of the Time: Sound in the Work of Laurie Anderson*, which included installation, audio, instruments, video, and art objects spanning Anderson's career from the 1970's to her most current works. The retrospective toured internationally from 2003 to 2005.

Among Anderson's awards are the 2001 Tenco Prize for Songwriting in San Remo, Italy, and the 2001 Deutsche Schallplatten prize for her album *Life on a String* (2001), as well as grants from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her latest projects include *Night Life*, a new book of drawings published earlier this year, and *Homeland*, a new album and tour scheduled for 2008.

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