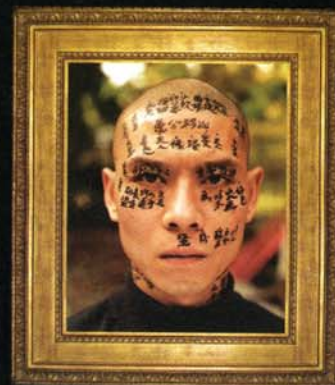
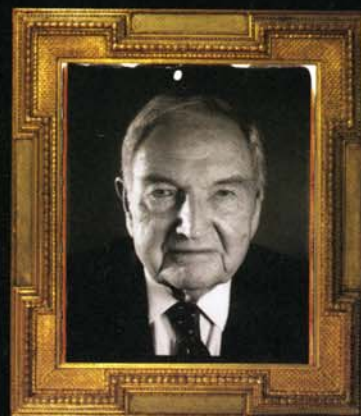


...SPECIAL ISSUE...THE FORCES THAT RESHAPED THE ART WORLD IN 2007...

# ART + AUCTION

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THE  
CHANGING  
FACE OF  
POWER





Agnes Gund and Elizabeth Easton,  
photographed by Judith Joy Ross.

# LEADING THE LEADERS ❖❖

America's art museums suffered a massive power outage during the past year, with two dozen director posts unfilled, the most in some 20 years. And that's not counting the Denver Art Museum, whose trustees wouldn't let Lewis Sharp retire so soon after opening a new wing in late 2006.

Retirement is the main reason for so many vacancies. But another is burnout brought on by overly ambitious expansions. These days, directors must manage building projects and raise the money to fund them, as well as craft programs to draw visitors—skills they don't teach in art school. Luckily, there's help around the corner: the Center for Curatorial Leadership, founded by Agnes Gund, president emerita of the Museum of Modern Art, and Elizabeth Easton, a former curator at the Brooklyn Museum. In January, in New York, it will begin training 10 curators (including Elizabeth Armstrong, of the Orange County Museum of Art, and the Met's Gary Tinterow), drawn from 50 applicants, in the finer points of running today's institutions. "There is no template for the 21st-century museum director, and there isn't a natural mentoring system anymore," Easton says. "I hope they leave the program with a few more tools in their pocket."