



Michael Hodgson:

Welcome, I'm Mick Hodgson, one half of M&M, the co-chairs of this evening's event. Thank you for joining us for this opportunity to honor designers who've led the way in the quality of their work, the quality of their character, and their commitment to those who've followed and continue to follow them. This is the fifth Design Legends Gala and is itself a watershed event. This profession is both old and new yet many of the traditions of our profession have started only recently. This gala demonstrates a recognition that the profession has begun to assume the responsibility for honoring its own past as well as preparing for the future. On this evening over 500 of you at 51 tables, which is more than last year, have joined us to -- yes -- applause, I heard a little bit, thank you.

[Applause]

Have joined us to celebrate the excellence of the profession and the community that we're all part of, thank you. And thanks too, to the volunteer committee members who made this evening possible and the Honorary Committee that helped us develop another successful and gracious evening. To the always enthusiastic and never tiring Pam Williams for taking on tables and chairs, which really meant nagging a lot of you until you said yes. And especially to my co-chair Mark Randall, who've been our New York half of our team, took on the lion's share while I, being based on the coast, took the odd conference call on the beach, as we do. Mark would now like to thank our sponsors.

Mark Randall:

So, you know, Mick -- [applause] since we always refer to ourselves as m&m did we get m&m's as a sponsor?

Michael Hodgson:

No, they said we were sweet enough already.

Mark Randall:

So, even though you did spend a lot of time on the beach you did manage to contribute an enormous amount to the success of this event so I thank you too. We'd like to thank the tireless AIGA staff, especially Amy, Kelly, Heather, and Jonathan, and I know she won't like this but we'd really like to thank Denise. We'd also like to thank -- yes --

[Applause]

We'd also like to thank CarboneSmolan for these fabulous table decorations that you see here.

[Applause]

In the spirit of sustainability you're encouraged to fight over them and take them home at the end of the evening.

Michael Hodgson:

And even leave a small donation on the table.

Mark Randall:

Yes, that would be great too. We'd also like to thank Riss for the fabulous digital presentation that's gonna take us through the evening. So, and event like this would really not happen without the support of these fantastic sponsors. The official AIGA sponsors are Adobe and Aquent.

[Applause]

The Gold Sponsor for this evening is American Printing Company.

[Applause]

And the Bronze Sponsors are, Adobe, The Artcraft Company, Aquent, Crane and Company, FedEx, and Mohawk Fine Papers, so let's give them all a round of applause.

[Applause]

So, I'm gonna now turn it over to Ric.

[Music]

Richard Grefé:

Good evening, I'm Ric Grefé, executive director of AIGA and I want to welcome all of you on behalf of AIGA's board of directors and all of the members, 22,000 members, 62 chapters, student groups at 240 campuses, and even AIGA China in Beijing. This is an event that celebrates great design, great designers, great companies, but most of all it celebrates those who lead the profession in their pursuit of excellence. The gala is a chance to both look back and to look forward, we honor the authentic models of the profession, and recognize that the vitality and the virtue of great design come both from mentors and those who learn from them.

The funds raised this evening support both the history and also the future. The history with an online archive that now includes every selection from every competition, every AIGA competition since 1924, over 19,000 items. And a physical archive at the Denver Art Museum that protects every actual artifact selected in any competition at AIGA since 1980 under the aegis of an AIGA assistant curator of design.

As we look forward to sort of a global multi-cultural society, which probably is more evident in these times than we've seen in the past, AIGA believes that relevance will require that excellence in diversity be joined. And this evening is funded an online gallery of role models for young designers from under-represented groups which will lead to an expanded gallery of personal stories and exhibition that will travel around the country. Your support also provides AIGA's contribution to Worldstudio Scholarships for students with promise, need, and a commitment to social change. For AIGA the future calls for focus on enhancing

designers' relevance, leadership, and opportunity, and the opportunities are possible only because you too, invest in the future of your chosen profession through AIGA, thank you.

[Applause]