

BOWDOIN COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT 1995

LEO STEINBERG, you are in every sense a man of many parts. Born in Moscow, raised in Berlin, educated in London, and for many years now a resident of Manhattan, you give new meaning to the word cosmopolitan. This urban diversity is nothing, however, compared to your creative and scholarly range. After a distinguished career as a writer, translator, and teacher of life drawing, you decided in mid-life to become an art historian, a career change which clearly proves the adage: better late than never. After receiving your doctorate from New York University in 1960, you quickly became one of this century's most stimulating, informative and provocative scholars, an award-winning critic and a teacher of legendary reputation. Your studies of, and lectures on, the works of Michelangelo have cast new light on the confluence of genius and piety; your close reading of the works of Picasso has provided new criteria for the analysis of a modern genius; and your study of the sexuality of Christ in Renaissance Art is a masterwork of exhaustive research and enlightened perception. Considering the range of your interests and accomplishments, including your ability to attract a certain amount of critical thunder and lightning, it is entirely appropriate that the University of Pennsylvania named you its Benjamin Franklin Professor of the History of Art, a position you held until your retirement in 1991. Equally appropriate is the fact that you are the first art historian to receive an award in literature from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, for your writings and your lectures are as famous for their eloquence as they are for their scholarly substance. Having twice held Bowdoin's Robert E. Lehman Lectureship in the fine arts, you now count the alumni and teachers of this college among those whom you have enlightened and inspired. For that, and for proving that great works of art deserve an interpreter who can bring elegance, wit, and passion to this enterprise, Bowdoin College honors you today. President Edwards, it gives me great pleasure to present to you **LEO STEINBERG**, for the degree of **DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS**, *honoris causa*.

Presented by Professor Clifton Olds