RESOLVED, that Brooklyn College award Kate Rothko Prizel the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*, at the college’s annual commencement ceremony on May 30, 2013.

EXPLANATION: Kate Rothko Prizel is currently a physician and medical researcher specializing in anatomic pathology and clinical pathology. She is also the daughter of famed abstract painter and former Brooklyn College faculty member, Mark Rothko. At the age of 19, she began a decade-long legal crusade against Marlborough Galleries which she alleged had acquired her father’s estate at an undervalued sum. Once the court ruled in her favor and she regained control of the estate, Kate Rothko Prizel embarked upon a career as a patron of the arts, bequeathing much of the estate to American museums and enhancing her father’s work after his death. Through her donations she has enabled the American people to view and experience 20th century masterpieces in museums across the country.

Kate Rothko Prizel graduated from Brooklyn College summa cum laude with a degree in Chemistry in 1973, and she received a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1978. For more than 30 years, she has worked in the fields of anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and blood banking and transfusion medicine. Her work in the field of medicine is admirable and worthy of honorary distinction. However, it is for her contributions to the arts, and specifically her work to secure the return of the estate of her late father, artist Mark Rothko, and her subsequent gift of hundreds of her father’s paintings to nineteen museums, thereby enabling the American public to appreciate and experience his 20th century paintings, that Kate Rothko Prizel is worthy of the doctor of fine arts. Mark Rothko is revered as one of the greatest American artists of the 20th century, and Kate Rothko Prizel's battle to regain the estate led to the posthumous rise in his reputation. Yet she chose not to keep his works of art for her own private viewing or financial gain, but instead she shared Mark Rothko’s artistic genius with the American viewing public.
Kate Rothko Prizel ’73 is a physician and medical researcher specializing in anatomical pathology and clinical pathology. She is also the daughter of famed abstract painter and former Brooklyn College Professor Mark Rothko.

While she has had a stellar career in her own right, one of Rothko-Prizel’s most significant public contributions concerns her battle to reclaim her father’s famous paintings for the benefit of society. At just 19 years old, while attending Brooklyn College, she successfully sued one of the most powerful art galleries in New York City to claim her father’s paintings, which he had always wanted to be offered up for public consumption after his death. The paintings had been sold to the famous Marlborough Galleries for well below their market value. After nearly a decade of wrangling in court, Rothko Prizel won the right to claim more than 650 of her father’s paintings. She has donated the bulk of the artwork to 19 museums, allowing public access to some of the most important paintings of the 20th Century.

Rothko Prizel planned the first major retrospective exhibition since her father’s death, which opened at the Guggenheim museum in 1978, a major European exhibition which opened at the Tate Gallery in 1987, and a retrospective exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in 1998, as well as many smaller shows. She has also provided assistance to other authors of works on her father and his art and participated in several film and television programs featuring Mark Rothko.

Rothko Prizel earned a B.S. in chemistry, Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Brooklyn College and then went on to graduate from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1978 with an M.D. After completing her medical training, Rothko Prizel practiced clinical pathology and transfusion medicine at several locations in Baltimore and Washington, including Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and The VA Hospital in Washington.

Her work in the field of medicine is admirable and worthy of honorary distinction. However, it is for her efforts to secure the return of the estate of her late father, artist Mark Rothko, and her subsequent gift of hundreds of his paintings to 19 museums, thereby enabling the American public to appreciate and experience his work, that Kate Rothko Prizel is worthy of the doctor of fine arts. Mark Rothko is revered as one of the greatest American artists of the 20th Century, and Rothko Prizel's battle to regain the estate led to the posthumous rise in his reputation. Yet she chose not to keep his works of art for her own private viewing or financial gain, but instead shared her father’s artistic genius with the American viewing public.