



FRANÇOIS NARS HONORED WITH THE LÉGION D'HONNEUR –  
THE HIGHEST FRENCH DISTINCTION

NEW YORK, NY NOVEMBER 10, 2016 – François Nars, Founder and Creative Director of NARS Cosmetics, was awarded France's premier honorary distinction, the "Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur" (National Order of the Legion of Honour) on Wednesday at the Payne Whitney Mansion in New York, home to the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

The Légion d'Honneur –established by [Napoléon Bonaparte](#) in 1802– recognizes prominent figures, both French and foreign, for their laudable actions toward the country of France or, more broadly, their achievements which uphold its ideals..

Beginning his career in Paris and moving to New York in the early 80's, François is recognized as a creative visionary who has blurred the lines between makeup artist, photographer and creative director. His lifetime of achievements and revolutionary approach to makeup have left an indelible mark on the fashion and beauty industries worldwide.

"I am incredibly humbled and proud to receive this prestigious award – it is one of the greatest moments of my career. France is my homeland and will always have a special place in my heart. I am truly honored." said François Nars

The ceremony was hosted by by [Bénédicte de Montlaur](#), Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy. [Ariane Daguin](#), previous Légion d'Honneur recipient and Founder & CEO of [D'Artagnan Foods](#), presented François with the award at an intimate ceremony with close friends and colleagues.

"It's an honor and privilege to see François receive the Legion D' Honneur award," said Barbara Calcagni, President, NARS Cosmetics. "He believes in unconventional beauty and has dedicated his life to helping women break boundaries when it comes to makeup and this award is a testament to that."

About François Nars:

After attending the famous Carita beauty school in Paris, an apprenticeship with makeup artist Olivier Echaudemaison launched François Nars' career. François moved to New York City in 1984 and instantly catapulted to success, working with publications such as *Harper's Bazaar*, *ELLE*, and *Vogue*. He collaborated with designers including Karl Lagerfeld, Marc Jacobs, D&G and Anna Sui to create the makeup looks for their runway shows. In November 1994, François launched a collection of twelve lipsticks at Barneys New York. The overwhelming demand for his lip colors inspired François to create a full line of cosmetics and skincare. As the founder and creative director, he continues to be the creative force behind NARS Cosmetics today. He expanded his creativity further by delving into photography and has released six successful books including *X-Ray*, *Makeup Your Mind*, *Makeup Your Mind: Express Yourself*, *15X15*, *Faery Lands* and *François Nars*.

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