

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUNDARAM TAGORE SINGAPORE PRESENTS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS AT ART STAGE SINGAPORE, JANUARY 24 - 27



Left: Fernando Botero, *Femme Nue Allongée*, 2000, bronze, 45.25 x 23.5 x 20.5 inches

Right: Hiroshi Senju, *Waterfall*, 2012, natural pigment on Japanese mulberry paper, 102 x 71.5 x 1.2 inches

Singapore, January 15, 2013—Internationally acclaimed Sundaram Tagore Gallery, with two galleries in New York and branches in Hong Kong and Singapore, brings the works of artists engaged in cross-cultural dialogue to Art Stage Singapore.

These artists explore traditional themes and some use traditional materials, but all create works with strikingly modernist sensibilities. Using a variety of media, including crushed minerals, printer's ink, and metal, they each employ a visual language deeply rooted in a local culture, yet wholly modern. Each is affected by globalization and the larger world outside, yet tied to the cultural mores of his or her country of origin. This group includes distinguished established artists alongside rising talents from the younger generation.

Selected artists include:

Hiroshi Senju: The context for Japanese artist Hiroshi Senju's art is part history of international modernist abstraction, part Japanese landscape tradition and part spiritual philosophy. Widely recognized as one of the few contemporary masters of the thousand-year-old *Nihonga* style of painting, Senju seamlessly combines traditional Japanese techniques and materials, including mineral pigments made from ground stone, shell and corals, and a modernist vocabulary.

Hiroshi Senju was the first Asian artist to receive an Honorable Mention Award at the Venice Biennale (1995) and has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world. Some of his most notable public commissions include a large-scale installation in Haneda Airport Terminal in Tokyo and a site-specific installation for the 2010 summit of the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation held in Japan. Mr. Senju's work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; The Museum of Modern Art in Toyama, Japan; Yamatane Museum of Art in Tokyo; The Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music; and the Kushiro Art Museum, Hokkaido, Japan. The Hiroshi Senju Museum, designed by Pritzker Prize winner Ryue Nishizawa, opened in October 2011 in Karuizawa, Japan.

Damien Hirst: Since the late 1980s, Damien Hirst has used a varied practice of installation, sculpture, painting and drawing to explore the complex relationship between art, life and death. Since 1987, more than eighty solo Damien Hirst exhibitions have taken place worldwide and his work has been included in more than two hundred and fifty group shows. Hirst's first major retrospective *The Agony and the Ecstasy* was held in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Naples in 2004. His contribution to British art over the last two and a half decades is recognized this year in a major retrospective of his work staged at the Tate Modern. Hirst was born in 1965 in Bristol and grew up in Leeds. In 1984, he moved to London where he worked in construction before studying for a BA in fine art at Goldsmiths College from 1986 to 1989. He was awarded the Turner Prize in 1995.

Annie Leibovitz: She began her career as a photojournalist for *Rolling Stone* magazine in 1970 while she was still a student at the San Francisco Art Institute. In 1983, she joined the staff of *Vanity Fair* magazine, where, over three decades, she has developed a large body of work—images of actors, directors, writers, musicians, athletes, and political and business figures—offering a collective portrait of contemporary life. Today, her photographs of celebrated figures assume gestures and poses that expose a private side of their personalities.

Leibovitz is the recipient of many honors, including the International Center of Photography's Lifetime Achievement Award, The American Society of Magazine Editors' first Creative Excellence Award and the Centenary Medal of the Royal Photographic Society in London. Several collections of Leibovitz's work have been published and exhibitions of her work have been held at museums and galleries worldwide, including at the National Portrait Gallery and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC; the International Center of Photography in New York; the Brooklyn Museum; the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam; the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris; the National Portrait Gallery in London; the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow.

Fernando Botero: Born in Medellin, Colombia, he is internationally renowned for his paintings and sculptures depicting rotund humans and animals. Referencing Latin-American folk art, Botero applies brightly colored paint to canvas without a trace of brushwork. This enhances his subjects' inflated shapes and creates the appearance of a smooth surface. His cast-bronze sculptures of a similar subject matter are an extension of his paintings.

Botero's work has been included in more than one hundred exhibitions worldwide and is collected by major international museums such as the Museum of Modern Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Musée Maillol, Paris; the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; and the National Museum of Colombia, Bogotá.

Edward Burtynsky: Acclaimed Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky chronicles the human impact on nature in his disarmingly beautiful images of industrial landscapes around the globe. Shot from up to 7,000 feet above, Burtynsky's painterly, often abstract images bring the scale of environmental devastation into perspective. Burtynsky began photographing nature in the early 1980s. His early works were intimate explorations of Canada's unspoiled landscapes. By the late 1980s, however, he turned away from the quickly disappearing natural terrain. He realized this was the world that we were losing not the one we were to inherit. Instead, he reflected on his own experience working in the mining and automobile industries and gradually began to investigate industrial incursions into land with arresting results.

Edward Burtynsky's works are in the collections of more than fifty museums worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Photographer's Gallery, London; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid; and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

Sebastião Salgado: The Brazilian-born photographer is based in Paris. He has made it his life's work to document the impact of globalization on humankind. His hauntingly beautiful black-and-white prints lay bare some of the bleakest moments of modern history, telling the story of Vietnamese boat people, Rwandan refugees, Indian coffee growers, and countless other impoverished individuals. In the past three decades, Salgado has traveled to more than one hundred countries for his photographic projects. Breaking down barriers, he lives with his subjects for weeks, immersing himself in their environments. He sees himself as a participant entering their story.

Salgado has had numerous exhibitions in influential museums across the globe. Among his many honors, Salgado has been named a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and an honorary member of the Academy of the Arts and Sciences in the United States. Since the 1990s, Salgado and his wife, Lélia Wanick Salgado, have been restoring a portion of the Atlantic Forest in Brazil. In 1998, they founded the non-profit *Instituto Terra*, an organization focused on reforestation and environmental education.

Sohan Qadri: An artist, poet and Tantric guru, Sohan Qadri (1932-2011) is one of the only internationally acclaimed artists deeply engaged with spirituality. He abandoned representation in search for transcendence early on in his long career, distilling Tantric symbolism into his own abstract, modernist language. He used heavy, bespoke paper that he would carve and serrate with sharp tools and dye in several stages. The repetition of careful incisions was an integral part of his meditation—and, in fact, his entire process evolved out of his desire for a spontaneous, effortless method of creation in tune with his yogic practice. Born in 1932 in Punjab, India, he received his MFA from the Government College of Art in Simla, India. Mr. Qadri participated in more than forty one-man shows, in addition to major gallery exhibitions in Bombay, Vienna, Brussels, London, Oslo, Stockholm, Montreal, Toronto and Los Angeles and New York. Mr. Qadri's works are included in official and private international collections, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi; and the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

Ricardo Mazal: One of Mexico's most prominent contemporary artists, Ricardo Mazal explores themes of life, death, transformation and regeneration through a multidisciplinary approach to painting that combines photography and digital technology. In 2004, the artist embarked on a trilogy examining the sacred burial rituals of three cultures, continents, and time periods. He began at the Mayan tomb of The Red Queen in Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico, then traveled to the Peace Forest cemetery in Odenwald, Germany. His newest series—inspired by the sky burials of Mount Kailash—marks the final installment of his triumvirate. He has exhibited extensively in galleries and museums throughout the Americas and Europe, including the Museo Estación Indianilla, Mexico City; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Mexico; Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City; The Americas Society, New York; The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona; and a recent retrospective at the Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City. His work is included in the collections of the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona; Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City; Museo de Arte Abstracto Manuel Felguerez, Zacatecas, Mexico; Maeght Foundation, Paris; and Deutsche Bank, New York and Germany. Mazal divides his time between New York City and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Kim Joon: Born in Seoul, South Korea in 1966, Kim Joon juxtaposes traditional Asian motifs and new media, exploring themes of desire, memory and youth. A master of the animation software *3D Studio Max*, he fabricates digital compositions out of porcelain tableware, fragments of idealized nudes, and icons of Western pop culture, including guitars, cars and guns. Reality and fantasy collide as Kim explores nostalgic obsessions and attachments to luxury brands and consumer culture. Kim Joon has exhibited his work at the Total Museum, Seoul; The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Kwachon, Korea; the Gwangju Biennale, Korea; the National Taiwan Museum; and the Saatchi Gallery, London. His tattoo imagery was featured on the cover of the December 2012 issue of *ARTnews*.

The complete list of artists: Frances Barth, Fernando Botero, Edward Burtynsky, Damien Hirst, Kim Joon, Nathan Slate Joseph, George Keyt, Annie Leibovitz, Robert Mapplethorpe, Hassan Massoudy, Vittorio Mattino, Ricardo Mazal, Judith Murray, Robert Polidori, Sohan Qadri, Sebastião Salgado, Hiroshi Senju, Joan Vennum, Merrill Wagner, Lee Waisler, Susan Weil, Robert Yasuda.

Gallery Mission

Established in 2000, Sundaram Tagore Gallery is devoted to examining the exchange of ideas between Western and non-Western cultures. The gallery focuses on developing exhibitions and hosting not-for-profit events that encourage spiritual, social and aesthetic dialogues. In a world where communication is instant and cultures are colliding and melding as never before, our goal is to provide venues for art that transcend boundaries of all sorts. With alliances across the globe, our interest in cross-cultural exchange extends beyond the visual arts into many other disciplines, including poetry, literature, performance art, film and music.

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