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Soprintendenza speciale per il Patrimonio storico artistico ed etnoantropologicoe per il Polo museale della città di Venezia e dei comuni della Gronda lagunare

## For Immediate Release

Tagore Foundation International and the Soprintendenza speciale per il patrimonio storico, artistico ed etnoantropologico e per il polo museale della città di Venezia e dei comuni della Gronda lagunare to Present

# Frontiers Reimagined

Public Dates: 9 May – 22 November, 2015 Preview Dates: 6 – 8 May, 2015

Official Collateral Event as part of the 56<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia





New York, Venice, 9 March, 2015 – Tagore Foundation International and Soprintendenza speciale per il patrimonio storico, artistico ed etnoantropologico e per il polo museale della città di Venezia e dei comuni della Gronda lagunare are pleased to announce their presentation of *Frontiers Reimagined*, a major exhibition that will open to the public at the **Museo di Palazzo Grimani** on 9 May, 2015 in tandem with the inauguration of the 56th International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia. Curated by **Sundaram Tagore**, with co-curator **Marius Kwint**, the exhibition will explore the theme of cultural boundaries through new and recent works, some of which were created specifically for the presentation, by established and emerging artists from around the world. The site-specific installation is juxtaposed by the architecture and collection of the Museo di Palazzo Grimani, a 16<sup>th</sup> century palace turned state museum, which holds a unique place in Venetian history and architecture. The recently restored palazzo houses a historic collection of artwork by Hieronymus Bosch, Giorgione, Vasari, as well some of the most important frescoes in the city, by Italian Mannerist painters Francesco Salviati, Federico Zuccari and Camillo Mantovano.

Comprising works made by forty-four artists in a variety of media, *Frontiers Reimagined* will demonstrate the intellectual and aesthetic richness that can emerge in today's globalized art world when artists engage in intercultural dialogue. Sundaram Tagore and Marius Kwint have selected the artists in the exhibition for their shared global perspective, as seen in both their artistic explorations and their practice of living and working across physical borders, stretching from the West to Asia to Africa.

#### Artists presented in the exhibition include:

Miya Ando	Olivia Fraser	Tayeba Begum Lipi	Robert Rauschenberg
Alfredo and Isabel	April Gornik	Hassan Massoudy	Sebastião Salgado
Aquilizan	Denise Green	Vittorio Matino	Nino Sarabutra
Osi Audu	Sasha Huber	Ricardo Mazal	Hiroshi Senju
Frances Barth	Georges Fikry Ibrahim	Vik Muniz	Donald Sultan
Edward Burtynsky	Fré Ilgen	Judith Murray	Jack Tworkov
Kamolpan Chotvichai	Kenro Izu	Michael Petry	Lee Waisler
Christo and Jeanne-	Kim Joon	Robert Polidori	Susan Weil
Claude	Nathan Slate Joseph	Eddi Prabandono	Morgan Wong
Tom Doyle	Aaron Taylor Kuffner	Chatchai Puipia	Robert Yasuda
Golnaz Fathi	Jane Lee	Sohan Qadri	Chun Kwang Young

<sup>&</sup>quot;Frontiers Reimagined was conceived to educate and enlighten viewers about the conceptual and formal issues that emerge from intercultural exchange in the artistic sphere," stated Sundaram Tagore. "It is our hope that viewers will recognize that this exchange is not only a present-day manifestation but very much the reality of the future."

The exhibition highlights the positive outcomes which globalization has had on artistic production, as selective cultural and artistic appropriation has become increasingly prevalent and as local artistic production has continued to gain exposure and acceptance on international platforms.

"Frontiers Reimagined aims to dissolve barriers of nationalism, ethnocentrism and identity politics," stated Marius Kwint. "At this moment in history, with people around the world locked in increasingly intransigent ideologies, the mingling of ideas across borders has never been more vital."

**Sundaram Tagore** is the Director of Sundaram Tagore Gallery, with spaces in New York, Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as the Director of the Tagore Foundation International. His work with the Gallery and the Foundation aims to provide a platform for substantive dialogue about arts and culture around the world. **Marius Kwint** is an Americanborn art historian, who teaches Visual Culture at the University of Portsmouth in the United Kingdom.

"We are pleased to be partnering with Tagore Foundation International to realize *Frontiers Reimagined* and to be able to share these important international works with local and international audiences," stated **Giovanna Damiani**, Superintendent, Soprintendenza speciale per il patrimonio storico, artistico ed etnoantropologico e per il polo museale della città di Venezia e dei comuni della Gronda lagunare.

According to Giulio Manieri Elia, Director of Palazzo Grimani Museum, "The museum is a perfect setting for exhibiting works of contemporary art. In fact, this is the second year the museum has hosted events of the Biennale. In the age of the Renaissance, moreover, the Grimani family were refined collectors of antiquities, as well as patrons and collectors of contemporary art."

Frontiers Reimagined has been granted the patronage of the Ministero dei beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo, the Italian Ministry of Culture.

A 112-page, full-color hardcover catalogue to be published by Marsilo Editori will accompany the exhibition.

### **Tagore Foundation International**

Established by Sundaram Tagore in 2006, Tagore Foundation International is a New York City-based 501(c)(3) organization that is devoted to intercultural dialogue and encourages social, spiritual and aesthetic dialogues between Asia and other areas of the world. The Foundation promotes the preservation and conservation of indigenous artworks and architecture; draws attention to artistic expressions that are either ignored or underrepresented in the larger cultural context; helps to develop intellectually rigorous international exhibitions by Asian and African artists; and provides a platform for dialogue about arts and culture around the world.

The Foundation's mission is inspired by and deeply enmeshed with the ideals of Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), Sundaram Tagore's great-granduncle, whose poetry, fiction, music and art have touched people all over the world. Rabindranath Tagore worked tirelessly throughout his life encouraging people to break free from "narrow domestic walls" through social justice and a universalism that merged the best ideals of East and West. In 1913, he was first non-European to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service is joy."

Rabindranath Tagore's university, Vishva-Bharati in Santiniketan, India, was a breeding ground for India's major artistic movements of the 20th century, as well as an intellectual center for the ideas that informed the Indian independence movement. Inspired by this heritage, the Foundation makes support for education a major component of its activities, along with organizing and sponsoring cultural events in the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore.

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Soprintendente: Giovanna Damiani

Soprintendente. Giovanna Dannam

Direttore del Museo di Palazzo Grimani: Giulio Manieri Elia

# **EXHIBITION DETAILS**

Title: Frontiers Reimagined

Press Conference: Wednesday, May 6 from 2-4:30 pm,

with presentations at 3 pm

Preview Days: May 6 – 8, 2015 from 9 am-7 pm Commissioner and Curator: Sundaram Tagore

Co-curator: Marius Kwint

Coordinating Director: Nathalie Vernizzi Venue: Museo di Palazzo Grimani Address: Ramo Grimani, Castello 4858 Public Dates: May 9 - November 22, 2015 Hours: 10 am -6 pm Tuesdays-Sundays/ Closed

Mondays

Tickets: Complimentary Admission for *Frontiers* 

Reimagined

Venue Tel: +39 - 041 241 1507 Website: frontiersreimagined.org

#### PHOTO CAPTION DETAILS:

**Left:** Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan, *Wings III*, 2009, used slippers and metal stand, 8.9 x 6.4 feet/2.7 x 2 meters, © 2015 Tagore Foundation International, image courtesy of Cesar Villalon, The Drawing Room, and the artists **Right:** Hiroshi Senju, *Ryujin II* (installation, left) and *Ryujin I* (installation, right) 2014, acrylic and fluorescent pigments on Japanese mulberry paper, each measuring 7.9 x 37.4 feet/2.4 x 11 meters; © 2015 Nacasa and Partners Inc.; image courtesy of the artist

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For more information, follow Sundaram Tagore Galleries on Twitter: @SundaramTagore, Facebook: Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Instagram: sundaramtagore and YouTube: Sundaram Tagore.