

**Fall Exhibition Season at San Antonio Museum of Art Will Feature
Contemporary Chinese Art, Indian Miniatures, and
Works by Artist-Activist Corita Kent**

**Miguel Gutierrez's Dance Duet
Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note or &:-/
Will Be Featured Work Among Nearly 50 Installations
At 8th Annual Luminaria Arts Festival, October 23 & 24**

Renovation of Museum's European Paintings & Sculpture Galleries To Begin in January 2016

San Antonio, TX—September 1, 2015—Contemporary arts take the lead at the San Antonio Museum of Art this fall, with presentations of works by Chinese artists from the Rubell Family Collection in **28 Chinese**, choreographer and dancer Miguel Gutierrez's piece ***Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note or &:-/***, and a retrospective of the politically engaged, Pop-driven work of Corita Kent, also known as Sister Mary Corita. **Also this fall**, the Museum will present ***Realms of Earth and Sky: Indian Painting from the 15th to the 19th Century***, an exploration of the diversity of styles and subject matter seen in miniature paintings from across India.

In September, the Museum will temporarily close its European art galleries in preparation for a major renovation. As part of the renovation process, the Museum will re-imagine the presentation of its important holdings in Irish silver and British ceramics, as well as some of its most popular paintings, including William Adolphe Bouguereau's masterpiece *Admiration* (1897), an icon of late 19th century French Academic painting. Once completed, the new galleries will also make it possible to rotate selections from the Museum's extensive collections of European works on paper, many of which have rarely been seen. The new galleries will re-open in summer 2016.

"We are excited that our new Brown Foundation Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Anna Stothart, is having an influence on our program. Her contributions to the city's Luminaria contemporary arts festival this year on behalf of the San Antonio Museum of Art will make the event even stronger," said Katherine Crawford Luber, the Museum's Kelso Director. "As an encyclopedic museum, we are always looking for opportunities to expand the range of art that we present and that will engage our community. From contemporary Chinese art, to Indian miniatures, to the unique Pop Art work of Corita Kent, our upcoming exhibitions support our mission to bring the world to San Antonio."

Additional information regarding upcoming exhibitions and programs follows below:

28 Chinese (September 5, 2015 – January 3, 2016)

The first special exhibition this fall is **28 Chinese**, opening September 5 and featuring works drawn from the Rubell Family Collection in Miami, including pieces by many of China's best-known artists such as Qiu Zhijie, Zhang Huan, Zhang Enli, and Ai Weiwei. All born between 1954 and 1986, these artists represent a period of tremendous artistic and intellectual change in China and were among the first to have their work actively presented and collected outside the country. The works were acquired by renowned Miami-based collectors Mera and Donald Rubell, over the course of many trips to China beginning in 2001.

These artists draw on a range of materials for their art, from the more traditional use of wood, oil, bronze, and acrylic paints, to tea leaves, Coca-Cola, and taxidermy animals for sculptural works—making for a varied and visually engaging presentation. Zhu Jinshi's enormous, suspended *Boat*, constructed of paper, rice, bamboo and cotton thread, anchors the exhibition, and offers visitors a breathtakingly poetic and immersive experience. Other

works include paintings, photographs, sculptures, and video installations, many of which deal with political and social issues that China has confronted over the last two decades.

This will be the first time that many of these artists have had their work presented in Texas, and represents San Antonio Museum of Art's continued commitment to bringing new arts experiences to the city. A fully illustrated, 262-page catalog with text from all the artists in both Chinese and English will accompany the exhibition.

Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note or &:-/

On October 23-24, the city of San Antonio will come together for the eighth edition of *Luminaria*, the city's homegrown contemporary arts festival featuring regional, national, and international artists. This year, the San Antonio Museum of Art's Brown Foundation Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Anna Stothart, has participated as a member of the artistic committee in the festival planning and artist selections. She was given the opportunity to invite the Colombian-born, New York-based choreographer and dancer Miguel Gutierrez to the city, to present his piece *Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note or &:-/*. Originally commissioned for and premiered as a part of the 2014 Whitney Biennial, *Age & Beauty Part 1* is the first of a suite of works that addresses what Gutierrez describes as "the representation of the dancer, the physical and emotional labor of performance, tropes about the aging gay choreographer, the interaction of art making with administration, the idea of queer time and futurity, and mid-life anxieties about relevance, sustainability and artistic burnout."

Luminaria began in 2008, with the city's mission to illuminate San Antonio's historic downtown as a re-imagined creative space, while spotlighting the arts as an important part of civic life. Developed each year by a team of artistic directors, the 2015 event is the first under the festival's new executive director, Kathy Armstrong, formerly the Director of Exhibitions for the Southwest School of Art. Since its launch, Luminaria has organized more than 1,200 visual arts installations and 900 performances, brought to life in San Antonio by more than 3,000 artists from across the region and around the world. After three years in Hemisfair Park, Luminaria returned to its roots on the city's streets last year—and has grown from one night to two. The San Antonio Museum of Art and its neighboring streets on the northern edge of downtown are the center for this year's festival. Luminaria will activate many parts of the Museum's 14-acre campus, with a range of programs in and around the building, and will also include access to the Museum's current exhibitions.

Realms of Earth and Sky: Indian Painting from the 15th to the 19th Century (November 6, 2015 – February 14, 2016)

Beginning on November 6, the Museum will present *Realms of Earth and Sky: Indian Painting from the 15th to the 19th Century*, a special look at a range of miniature paintings from the diverse South Asian artistic traditions of the Mughal empire. The word "miniature" derives from the word *minium*—Latin for "red lead" and a reference to the vermilion that was used to mark important words in European manuscripts.

In the forty-three works in *Realms of Earth and Sky*, artists used fine brushes and magnifying lenses to render exquisite detail on a minute scale, from portraits, to religious and literary texts, to the Ragamala paintings that depict a range of musical melodies known as ragas. With brilliant color and burnished, enamel-like surfaces, each scene is contained in the intimate size of a manuscript or album page and illuminates the opulence of the Mughal court, the actions of gods in the form of men, lively battles, and courtly love.

The exhibition has been organized by the Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia and curated by Daniel J. Ehnbohm, Associate Professor of South Asian Art, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia and is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated catalogue.

Corita Kent and the Language of Pop (February 13 – May 8, 2016)

Artist. Educator. Roman-Catholic Nun. *Corita Kent and the Language of Pop* explores Kent’s groundbreaking work as a pop artist who combined faith, activism, and teaching with messages of acceptance and hope—and helped to bring acceptance to silkscreen printing as an art form in the process. During her life she made nearly 700 screen prints, took commissions for ads and public art, designed books and stamps, produced films, and orchestrated performative art parties and events that were often called “Happenings.”

This exhibition, organized by the Harvard University Art Museums, takes Kent’s remarkable biography as a jumping-off point to examine her intense engagement with the prevailing artistic, social, and religious movements from 1964–69. A former nun, her work juxtaposed spiritual, pop cultural, literary, and political writings alongside symbols of consumer culture and modern life in order to create bold images and prints.

More than sixty of her prints will be on view alongside works by artists such as Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha, and Roy Lichtenstein, helping to place Kent’s art firmly in the Pop Art vernacular. The exhibition is accompanied by a 337-page catalog.

About the San Antonio Museum of Art

The San Antonio Museum of Art serves as a vibrant forum to explore, experience, and connect with art that spans the world’s geographies, artistic periods, genres, and cultures. An encyclopedic institution, its collection contains nearly 30,000 works representing 5,000 years of history. Housed in the historic Lone Star Brewery on the Museum Reach of San Antonio’s famed Riverwalk, the San Antonio Museum of Art is committed to promoting the rich cultural heritage and life of the city through a broad spectrum of artistic experiences. The Museum hosts hundreds of events and public programs each year, including concerts, performances, tours, lectures, symposia, and interactive and immersive experiences. An active civic leader, the Museum is dedicated to bringing to the fore the vitality of San Antonio’s creative community and to introducing new artists, performances, and events to its many audiences.

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