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ARTEXPO NEW YORK ELECTRIFIES THE INTERNATIONAL ART WORLD WITH ITS 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thousands converge at Pier 94 to reflect on four decades of artistic expression through a retrospective lens

New York, NY – May 7th, 2018: Artexpo New York, the world's largest fine art marketplace and longest running contemporary art fair, celebrated its 40-Year Anniversary in formidable style from April 19—22 at Pier 94 in the heart of Midtown Manhattan. This year's show reported record trade attendance, together with a five percent increase in ticket sales compared to last year's event, reinforcing its popularity year-on-year as one of the country's most electrifying art exhibitions.

To celebrate 40 years of excellence in art, Artexpo New York presented **[MAGNIFY]** as the curatorial theme for 2018 – examining four decades of artistic expression through a retrospective lens. Thousands of enthusiasts, together with the art world's international trade and industry leaders, flocked to experience the annual fine art destination and its *Three Shows Within One Venue*, including **[SOLO]** and **[FOTO SOLO]**, at the heart of Midtown Manhattan, across 135,000 square feet of uninterrupted convention space. Artexpo New York XL hosted more than 400 innovative exhibiting artists, galleries and publishers from across the globe, showcasing original artwork, prints, paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, giclee, lithographs and glass works among other contemporary and fine art. Artexpo New York delivered the largest international gathering of qualified trade buyers—including gallery owners and managers, art dealers, interior designers, architects, corporate art buyers, publishers and art and framing retailers—all of whom returned to enjoy the series of education seminars, cocktail parties, live entertainment and other special events.

"This year's Artexpo New York went beyond all expectations," says **Eric Smith**, President and CEO of **Redwood Media Group**. "Some of today's most diverse and eclectic artists and galleries from more than 51 countries around the world presented every genre of contemporary and fine art imaginable. Two exemplary highlights for me in particular were the magnificent Sculpture Garden and its breathtaking larger-than-life installation known as *Victory* by Steve Farland of Chairbourne Arts; as well as 40 of the most inspirational emerging talents that formed our Rising Artist Gallery. Many of our exhibitors reported record sales and I personally welcomed a vast number of collectors who returned to the show for a second or third day in a row to purchase additional pieces. We look forward to celebrating our 41st installment of Artexpo New York next year with all of our incredible show partners and patrons."

Registered trade and industry attendees experienced a double 40-Year celebration for the opening of Artexpo New York at Pier 94. The exclusive Trade First Preview Party took place on Thursday, April 19th, followed by the Opening Night Party on Friday, at which hundreds were entertained by **DJ Keith Butler**, while sipping on complimentary Louis Jadot wines.

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This year's featured **Art Lab** installation, located in the **[SOLO]** exhibition area, was a special presentation created by notable visual artist, **Jon Henry** – a photographer and alumni of the **New York Film Academy**. *Stranger Fruit* showcased a thought-provoking collection of images evoking the artist's reflection on the black family and community.

This year's **Spotlight Program** provided collectors with a focused look at several galleries and prominent artists who created a site-specific exhibition. Spotlight exhibitors for 2018 included **Contemply Gallery**, and its notable Italian artists **Nello Petrucci** and **Paola Epifani** ("Rabarama"), together with the metallic artist **Cassidy Watt** from **Metallo Gallery** in New Mexico, the post-Impressionist, **Samir Sammoun** of **Sammoun Fine Art** (an Artexpo New York exhibitor for 20+ years) and the Serbian painter of works depicting the Soviet regime, **Victor Lysakov** of **Victor Lysakov Fine Art**.

The 2018 Anniversary rendition of **[FOTO SOLO]** featured fine art photography from some of the world's coveted abstract, contemporary and realist photographers. This year's [FOTO SOLO] artists included **Adele Venter** from South Africa, **Alexandra Szebenyik** from Hungary, **Angela Schapiro** from England, **Danny Lloyd** from New York, **Michel Leroy** from New York and **Riya Sharma** from India.

Attendees once again enjoyed an extensive **Meet The Artists** program of activity during the four days of Artexpo New York, which included live demonstrations in each exhibition booth by the artists themselves. This year's comprehensive **Topics & Trends Education Program** included an extensive series of seminars, moderated panel discussions and lectures, hosted by a group of handpicked leaders from various genres of the arts industry, presented on the show's main **Education Pavilion**. Subjects and themes for 2018 included "Nuts And Bolts Of Copyright and Trademark Law," through to "Making The Internet Work For You."

The very popular **Rising Artist Gallery**, showcased more than 40 emerging artists of tomorrow, and the unique **Sculpture Garden**, proved a popular addition to Artexpo New York XL, containing individual works by the leaders in this field, including "Victory" by **Stephen Farland** of **Chairborne Arts**, who presented an immense warrior-like depiction of life emerging from rubble – constructed entirely out of wooden chairs from Poland.

The number of commissions reported throughout the show this year was impressive, as were the gallery placements by [SOLO] and [FOTO SOLO] artists. With overall sales totaling nearly \$1 million, here is a brief sampling of highlights from this year's exhibitor sales:

Chae, Rim from Korea placed several of her metallic landscape sculptures, including *Prana* and *Spring In My Hometown*, totaling sales in excess of \$60,000.

Samir Sammoun of **Samir Fine Art** – an Artexpo New York exhibitor for more than 20 years – placed 19 of his original oils with prices ranging from \$3,500 to \$35,000, including *Apple Orchard*, *Champ De Mortade*, *California* and *Lavande Et Soleil*,

Able Fine Art Gallery placed five pieces, including *Jean Nak* and *JJ Marino*, totaling sales of \$25,000.

Smart Publishing placed six paintings and several sculptures,

JBIS Contemporary and artist **Jeffrey Basillon**, placed five pieces including *Adidas Sneakers* and *Dollar Sign*, totaling sales of more than \$25,000.

Metallo Gallery and artist **Cassidy Watt** placed 24 of his unique *Remnant Totems*, totaling sales of more than \$10,000.

Gedion Galleries placed *All About My Heart* and *Urban*, among several other sculptures.

Aneela Fazal placed a total of 11 pieces, totaling sales of more than \$25,000.

DATG Concept placed more than five pieces, with sales exceeding \$50,000.

In addition to the impressive sales at this year's show, some additional highlights included the popular exhibit by 4 year-old Indian artist, **Advait Kolarkar**, who presented and sold a number of paintings from his collection entitled "The Color Blizzard." To-date, Advait has become the youngest artist to exhibit at Artexpo New York. This year's show saw fashion royalty, with a rare appearance by the renowned designer, **Carolina Herrera**, who was welcomed with her husband by President and CEO of Redwood Media Group, Eric Smith, before walking the exhibition floor and honoring her invitation by the owner of South Florida Arts.

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On Friday, April 20th, **Art Brand Studios** presented the unveiling of *Light Of Hope* to benefit **The Alzheimer's Foundation Of America**. Acclaimed artist **Blend Cota** announced a collaboration to benefit the foundation, whereby a unique painting was revealed in his singular style, known as Colorism, depicting the Empire State Building. For Blend, the battle against Alzheimer's has been personal, after his mother died from complications of Alzheimer's at the young age of 55. All proceeds from *Light of Hope* benefited AFA and its mission to deliver compassionate care to patients and support to caregivers.

Highlights from the Artexpo New York interactive programming schedule included:

MEET THE ARTIST & LIVE DEMONSTRATION with Amy Shackleton

Amy Shackleton created one of her gravity-enhanced paintings. Her paintings depict cities are combined with nature, exploring the conflicting relationships that exist between humanity and the environment.

MEET THE ARTIST & LIVE DEMONSTRATION with Samir Sammoun

At his very first Artexpo New York in 1996, Samir Sammoun's originality and unique style caught the attention of viewers, gallerists, collectors and art lovers. After that initial discovery, the response to his fresh colorful impressionistic style has continued to build over the 20+ years he has showcased his work at Artexpo.

TOPICS & TRENDS EDUCATION PROGRAM – “GETTY IMAGES: THE ART & THE BUSINESS” with guest speakers Lia De Feo and Shawn Waldron from Getty Images.

MEET THE ARTIST & LIVE DEMONSTRATION with Takashi Kajiyama

Takashi Kajiyama, a calligrapher from Hiroshima, once again wielded his brush to create a piece of his iconic calligraphy art.

TOPICS & TRENDS EDUCATION PROGRAM – “DREAM TO LAUNCH: MAKING THE INTERNET WORK FOR YOU” with guest speakers A.D. Cook and Beti Kristof from Dream to Launch.

MEET THE ARTIST & LIVE DEMONSTRATION with James Paterson

James Paterson's approach to his art is one of a simple sense of wonder, his aim being to create art that is redemptive, revealing the reality of God in the world in such a manner as to give expression to mystery.

ART LAB EXPLORATIONS: JON HENRY, STRANGER FRUIT with guest speakers: Jon Henry / Art Lab Artist and David Mager, Photography Chairman from New York Film Academy.

MEET THE ARTIST & LIVE DEMONSTRATION with Hisae Sasaki

Hisae Sasaki's traditional Japanese ink paintings expressed the beauty and power of nature by combining real flowers with charcoal ink on Japanese paper.

TOPICS & TRENDS EDUCATION PROGRAM – “ARTIST FAME & FORTUNE: TURNING WHAT YOU LOVE INTO A CAREER” with guest speaker Michael Joseph from Artblend.

ART TALKS: “SUCCESS SECRETS OF AMAZING FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHERS”

A panel discussion led by Linda Mariano of Redwood Media Group and guest panelists Tim Tadder from Arte Collective, Michael Joseph from Artblend and Riya Sharma from Riya Sharma Fine Art.

TOPICS & TRENDS EDUCATION PROGRAM – “ARTIST FAME AND FORTUNE: KEY ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS” with moderator Michael Joseph from Artblend and speakers Debbi Schonberger-Pierce, a corporate art consultant and Principal at Art Solutions; Anthony Scime, Principal and Designer at Mint Art Haus; Erin Bassett, a mixed media sculptor and Meagan J. Meehan, an author and playwright.

2018 Artexpo New York 40-Year Anniversary Award Winners included:

Spotlight Program

Contemply Gallery

Sammoun Fine Art

Cassidy Watt / Metallo Gallery

Victor Lysakov Fine Art

Director's Award

Chae Rim Fine Art

Mecenavie Gallery, Paris

Artblend

Best Booth Design

ADC/Blink

Mattson's Fine Art
Anna Art Publishing
Arte Collective

[SOLO] Exhibitor Award: Christin Bakker

[FOTO SOLO] Exhibit

Rajasekar Alamanda
Guadalupe Laiz
Michel Leroy

Best International Exhibitor

Kingspace Gallery
A. Farkash Gallery

Best Sculpture Award

Steve Farland, Chairborne Arts
Michael St. Mary

Best New Exhibitor

Michael Quadland
Katarzyna Golebiowska

Each year, thousands of art industry insiders flock to Artexpo New York in search of the art and the artists that will shape trends in galleries worldwide. Over the past several years, Pier 94 has quickly become a recognizable event space in New York City, utilized for high end shows and large scale events. Artexpo New York follows The Armory Show in April each year, completing the trendy convention center's month-long critically acclaimed offering of exhilarating and prominent art fairs in New York City. Hosting more than 35,000 avid art enthusiasts, including 5,000+ trade representatives every year, Artexpo New York is the largest international gathering of qualified trade buyers—including gallery owners and managers, art dealers, interior designers, architects, corporate art buyers, publishers and art and framing retailers.

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About Artexpo New York

Now celebrating its 40 Year Anniversary, Artexpo New York offers *Three Shows in One Venue* and the world's largest fine art marketplace. Located at the renowned Pier 94 event venue in Manhattan, Artexpo New York brings together the largest international gathering of qualified trade buyers—including gallery owners and managers, art

dealers, interior designers, architects, corporate art buyers and art and framing retailers. The annual curated expo introduces more than 400 of the world's leading publishers, galleries and collectors face to face with hundreds of established and emerging artists from across the globe. More than 35,000 avid art enthusiasts attend each year to enjoy exciting and original artwork, prints, paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, giclee, lithographs and glass works – all under one roof and within 135,000 square feet of uninterrupted convention space. Alongside the world's largest fine art trade show is [SOLO] highlighting established and independent emerging artists and [FOTO SOLO] featuring fine art photography from some of the world's finest abstract, contemporary and realist photographers. Artexpo New York also features its annual lineup of interactive and educational programming, including Art Labs, Spotlight Program, and the *Topics & Trends* Education Program. For further information, visit www.artexponeyork.com.

About Redwood Media Group

Since 2009, Redwood Media Group (RMG) has been revolutionizing the global fine art community by helping artists and gallery owners grow their businesses through fine art exhibitions and publications, art business education, mentoring, marketing, and social media. Today, RMG owns and operates five fine art shows: Artexpo New York, Spectrum Miami, Art San Diego, Art Santa Fe, and Red Dot Miami. Artexpo New York, the world's largest fine art trade show for 40 years and counting, attracts more than 40,000 art enthusiasts every year, including nearly 5,000 industry buyers. Spectrum Miami and Red Dot Miami take place during Miami Art Week, an annual attraction that draws over 100,000 art collectors to the city. Over the past eight years, RMG has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to their events, sold millions of dollars' worth of art, and helped thousands of unrepresented and established artists launch or grow their careers. Aside from hosting multiple high-end art shows throughout the year, RMG also owns *Art Business News*.

For more information, visit www.redwoodmg.com, www.artbusinessnews.com, www.artexponeyork.com, www.art-sandiego.com, www.spectrum-miami.com, www.artsantafe.com, and www.reddotmiami.com.
