

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:

Erin Cluley

Exhibitions and Public Relations Manager

+ 214 821 2522

erin.cluley@dallascontemporary.org

Wish! Art Auction Benefitting Dallas Contemporary

-held Saturday 14 May 2011 broke all previous records of monies raised –

DALLAS [18 May 2011] Dallas Contemporary, the non-collecting art center that presents new and challenging exhibitions from regional, national and international artists, held its annual **Wish! Art Auction** for the second time in its new home on Saturday 14 May.

Wish! Art Auction is held annually and featured a dynamic lineup of art work by emerging and established artists from Texas, the US, Europe and Asia. **PEEK**, held on Thursday 12 May as a preview party, allowed guests a first look at the auction art work and the items up for bid on Saturday night. PEEK was a high-energy event with more than 500 guests who enjoyed a dynamite performance by artist **Surasi Kusolwong**. Many guests excitedly walked away with items from Kusolwong's market that they purchased for \$1 -- everything from Nike tennis shoes to shiny gold necklaces to sock puppets.

Co-Chairs **Brooke Hortenstine** and **Capera Ryan** gathered a top-notch host committee of 132 Dallasites to support this amped up event.

Patrick Collins, **Mike Masters** and **Karla McKinley** were Art Co-chairmen. Heading up entertainment were **Nicole Musselman** and **Merry Vose**. Underwriting co chairmen were **Muffin Lemak** and **Shelby Wagner**.

Auction artists in attendance were **Dzine** (Chicago), **Surasi Kusolwong** (Bangkok), **Mark Collop** (Dallas), **Sally Warren** (Dallas), **Robert Lazzarini** (Los Angeles), **James Gilbert** (Los Angeles), **Yelizaveta Nersesova** (Dallas), **Ruben Nieto** (Dallas), **Cassandra Emswiler** (Dallas), **Jason Reynaga** (Dallas), **Sour Grapes 13** (Dallas) among others.

Kicking off Saturday evening was a VIP cocktail reception sponsored by **Montage Residencies Deer Valley** and **Sentient Jet** recognizing top patrons for the Wish! Art Auction. In attendance were **Dr. Rodger Kobes**, **Beth & Fin Ewing**, **Joyce Goss**, **Ana & Sherrill Pettus**, **Jessica & Clay Pulliam**, **Debbie Ryan**, **Maxine & Ben Trowbridge**, **Merry Vose**, **Jack Kinzie** and others.

President of Christie's Los Angeles, **Andrea Fiuczynski**, flew in Saturday to lead the live auction and broke all records of monies raised in the history of Dallas Contemporary's Wish! Art Auctions. **Ed & Julie Hawes** walked away with two of the highest valued items

from the live auction - a **Damien Hirst** spin painting and **Erwin Wurm** sculpture. **Tammy Cotton & Will Hartnett** added the **Chul-Hyun Ahn** light sculpture to their collection. **Karla & Mark McKinley** were the high bidders on the **Shepard Fairey** print. Following the live auction, **Dwight Emanuelson**, vice-chair for the Capital Campaign, led “paddles up” to raise money towards the campaign to complete the building. **Sue & Jimmy Gragg** were the first to raise their paddle towards the efforts.

Those in attendance: **Patrick Collins** (Dallas Contemporary Board President) & **Lindsey Collins, Fallon & Robie Vaughn, Mark & Michelle Moussa, Sharon & Michael Young, Lisa & John Runyon, Kelli & Allen Questrom, Patricia Dedman Nail, Shelby Wagner & Niven Morgan, Jo Marie Lilly & Bruce Mueller** and many more.

Major sponsors for Peek and the Wish! Art Auction include: Artist Sponsor, **Rodger Kobes, M.D**; Fashion Sponsor, **Versace**; Official Automotive Sponsor, **Ewing Automotive**; Live Auction and Paddle Sponsor, **Christie's**; Jewelry Sponsor, **David Yurman**; Official Cocktail Sponsors, **Belvedere Vodka** and **Moet & Chandon**; VIP Preview Party Sponsors, **Montage Deer Valley** and **Sentient Jet**; Official Beer Sponsor, **Ben E. Keith Company**; Platinum Sponsors, **Allen and Kelli Questrom, Claire and Dwight Emanuelson, Niven Morgan and Shelby Wagner, The Patricia Dedman Family Foundation**; Entertainment Sponsor, **Tim Headington**; Learning Sponsor, **The Eugene McDermott Foundation**; Silver Sponsors, **Alsbridge, Neiman Marcus, Nancy and Tim Hanley, John and Muffin Lemak, The Peregrine Group**; Valet Sponsor, **Strait Capital Company**; Official Luxury Event Rental Sponsor, **Suite 206**; Official Modeling Agency, **The Clutts Agency**; Centerpiece Sponsor, **Dallas Auction Gallery/ Kathi and Scott Shuford**; Food Sponsor, **Greg Rankin and The Catering Company**; Accent Sponsor, **Mottega**; and Media Sponsor, **PaperCity Magazine** .

MORE INFO ABOUT WISH! ART AUCTION and DALLAS CONTEMPORARY:

On Saturday 14 May 2011, Dallas Contemporary conducted its annual Wish! Art Auction. The support of the community ensures Dallas Contemporary will continue their commitment to help launch the careers of artists from Texas and around the world and to engage the public in meaningful dialogue about contemporary art. By giving artists the opportunity to mount exhibitions, this institution has presented painting, photography, sculpture, new media and more from emerging talent for art enthusiasts, critics and collectors. In addition to thought-provoking exhibitions, Dallas Contemporary serves more than 35,000 children and adults annually through gallery talks, discussion groups, tours of collectors' homes, and their Art Think™ education program — opening the eyes and imaginations of students to create a new generation of thinkers.

Images available upon request. Please contact Erin Cluley at 214.821.2522 or erin.cluley@dallascontemporary.org.

###