

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **LANDMARK SHOW "*TO BE A LADY*" BRINGS SUPERSTAR ARTISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO SINGAPORE**

Exhibition dates: October 23, 2013–January 5, 2014

Opening cocktail reception: Wednesday, October 23, 6–9 pm

Curated by Jason Andrew and organized by Sundaram Tagore Gallery in collaboration with Norte Maar



Left: Helen Frankenthaler, *Race Point*, 1969, oil on canvas, 54.5 x 19 inches; private collection, courtesy Norte Maar, photo: Kris Graves

Right: Louise Nevelson, *Night Flower One*, 1958, wood painted black, 36.25 x 24.75 x 3.75 inches; © 2013 Estate of Louise Nevelson/Artists Rights Society (ARS), courtesy Pace Gallery, New York

**Singapore, September 21, 2013**—Sundaram Tagore Singapore is pleased to announce the landmark exhibition *To Be a Lady: An International Celebration of Women in the Arts*. Curated by Jason Andrew, the exhibition brings together an international selection of historic, mid-career, and emerging women artists born over the last century. Striking artworks by celebrated masters including **Shirley Goldfarb**, **Louise Nevelson**, **Alice Neel** and **Helen Frankenthaler** are juxtaposed with international stars such as **Ghada Amer**, **Zhang Hui**, **Shirin Neshat** and **Yin Xiuzhen**, setting the stage for a global exhibition designed to challenge and reshape the meaning of the word “lady.”

(continued)

For much of the last hundred years, women have been at the forefront of social and political reform worldwide. Whether Western suffragettes or activists in the Arab Spring, women have played and continue to play pivotal roles in bringing about revolutionary change. Their art and activism pushes beyond ideological lines, re-shaping and redefining the world we live in. Their art has come to empower women in all fields of society, continuing to ignite debate about inequality, poverty and social exclusion.

Historically, the term “lady” was a polite title bestowed on women of high social class or status. This show offers a bold new look at what it means to be a lady, presenting works that rub up against conventions and challenge the notions of what it means to be “lady-like,” emphasizing the bold rather than the conformist.

The word *lady*, here, is a provocation. For much of the early twentieth century, and particularly in America, women were up against the “lady painter” image, which noted American historian Linda Nochlin suggests was “...established in 19th century etiquette books and reinforced by the literature of the times.” (1) Today, despite what might appear to be great progress for women in the arts, these societal expectations continue. As seminal painter Lee Krasner said, “I’m an artist not a woman artist.” (2)

For women in the arts worldwide, as in many other fields, a special fortitude and commitment can be seen in the work and lives of those who succeed. Every artist must overcome boundaries. Some boundaries are overtly stated and others, the result of traditional expectations imposed over time, have gone unquestioned. For many women, it has been a grueling battle for recognition—a battle that continues even today. Although there has been an increase in the number of women artists shown by institutions and represented by galleries worldwide, these numbers are nowhere near equal to the number of shows given to men.

*To Be a Lady* celebrates women on an international scale as they continue to break the mold, re-write history, and modernize what it means to be a “lady.” The exhibition includes works by historic, mid-career and emerging American artists, as well as work by prominent international artists from China, Egypt, Iceland, Singapore, South Africa and the UK, offering a global representation of works by women. The curatorial selection is interdisciplinary, multi-media and cross-generational with seminal works by each artist reminding us that the world is full of great artists—and many of them happen to be ladies.

*To Be a Lady* is organized by Sundaram Tagore Gallery in collaboration with the New York-based nonprofit arts organization Norte Maar. A 2012 version of this exhibition was funded by and presented in New York at the 1285 Avenue of the Americas Art Gallery in partnership with 1285 Avenue of the Americas and Jones Lang LaSalle.

---

(1) Linda Nochlin, “Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?” *ARTNews* 69 (January 1971).

(2) Michael Kernan, “Out of Pollock’s Shadow: Her Life & Art Seen Whole at Last,” *Washington Post*, October 23, 1983, L1.

## THE ARTISTS \*

Charmion von Wiegand	Hung Liu
Louise Nevelson	Annie Leibovitz
Alice Neel	April Gornik
Janice Biala	Shirin Neshat
Elaine de Kooning	Tamara Gonzales
Grace Hartigan	Ghada Amer
Shirley Goldfarb	Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson
Ruth Asawa	Jane Lee
Helen Frankenthaler	Yin Xiuzhen
Jay DeFeo	Julia K Gleich
Niki de Saint Phalle	Zhang Hui
Susan Weil	Austin Thomas
Dorothea Rockburne	Yto Barrada
Viola Frey	Golnaz Fathi
Hermine Ford	Hellen van Meene
Nancy Grossman	Zanele Muholi
Elizabeth Murray	Vanessa German
Pat Steir	Kristen Jensen
Judith Murray	Miya Ando
Jennifer Bartlett	Brooke Moyses
Lynda Benglis	*organized by date of birth

## About the Curator

"*To Be a Lady* is not intended to be a comprehensive survey, but a very personal selection of art that offers a kaleidoscope of styles, images, and personalities that I have come to respect and whose aesthetic I admire. But here, specifically, it is the physicality of the art-making that I am drawn to. Whether it be a haunting construction by Louise Nevelson, an expressionistic canvas by Alice Neel or a ceramic vignette by Viola Frey, these historic ladies exude a tactile process and manipulated rigor which laid the groundwork for those who followed."

—Jason Andrew

Jason Andrew is an American independent curator and producer based in Brooklyn, New York. He is the manager of the estate of Abstract Expressionist painter Jack Tworkov and specializes in postwar American art. He has published extensively on the subject and is currently editing the catalogue raisonné of paintings by Jack Tworkov. Guarding against special interests in any particular style or genre, his cross-disciplinary projects bridge gaps left in art history and reflect the creative imagination of the past, present and future. Recent projects in the United States include the exhibition *Jack Tworkov: Against Extremes, Five Decades of Painting* (UBS Art Gallery, Provincetown Art Association and Museum, 2009); *Jack Tworkov: Accident of Choice, the artist at Black Mountain College 1952* (Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, 2011); *To Be a Lady* (1285 Avenue of the Americas Gallery, 2012); *Giacometti and a selection of contemporary drawings* (Norte Maar, 2013); *Dance Socrates* (Socrates Sculpture Park, 2013). Andrew is a prominent figure in the art scene in Bushwick, a section of Brooklyn, New York. He is the co-founder/director of the nonprofit arts organization Norte Maar.

(continued)

### **About Sundaram Tagore Gallery**

Established in 2000, Sundaram Tagore Gallery is devoted to examining the exchange of ideas between Western and non-Western cultures. With locations in Singapore, Hong Kong and New York (Chelsea and Madison Avenue), we focus 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. Our interest in cross-cultural exchange extends beyond the visual arts into many other disciplines, including poetry, literature, performance art, film and music.

### **About Norte Maar**

Norte Maar for Collaborative Projects in the Arts is a nonprofit arts organization in Brooklyn, New York, founded in 2004 by Jason Andrew and choreographer Julia K. Gleich to create, promote, and present collaborations in the disciplines of the visual, literary, and the performing arts: connecting artists, choreographers, composers, writers, and other originating artists with venues and each other. [www.nortemaar.org](http://www.nortemaar.org)

**[www.sundaramtagore.com](http://www.sundaramtagore.com)**

For more information, email [esther@sundaramtagore.com](mailto:esther@sundaramtagore.com) or call Esther Bland at +865 2581 9678.

**new york** 547 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001 • tel 212 677 4520 fax 212 677 4521 • [gallery@sundaramtagore.com](mailto:gallery@sundaramtagore.com)

**new york** 1100 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10028 • tel 212 288 2889

**hong kong** 57-59 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong • tel +852 2581 9678 fax +852 2581 9673 • [hongkong@sundaramtagore.com](mailto:hongkong@sundaramtagore.com)

**singapore** 01-05 Gillman Barracks, 5 Lock Road, Singapore 108933 • tel +65 6694 3378 • [singapore@sundaramtagore.com](mailto:singapore@sundaramtagore.com)