



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOPHEAP PICH, CAMBODIA'S PREMIER CONTEMPORARY ARTIST, TO PRESENT LARGEST, MOST AMBITIOUS SINGLE-FORM SCULPTURE TO DATE AT THE CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART BEGINNING JUNE 24

*World-renowned sculptor – whose works have been shown at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and currently on view at this year's Venice Biennale – to display **Rang Phnom Flower**, a 25-foot composition of rattan and bamboo*

DALLAS (May 30, 2017) – The **Crow Collection of Asian Art** will present a solo exhibition of the work of **Sopheap Pich**, recognized today as Cambodia's most internationally prominent contemporary artist, from Saturday, June 24, 2017, through Sunday, January 7, 2018. The exhibition will feature his large-scale sculpture, ***Rang Phnom Flower***, Pich's largest and most ambitious single-form sculpture to date. Measuring 25 feet in length, its complex construction is composed of hundreds of strands of rattan and bamboo. This exhibition will also feature the loan of an original French 19th-century, hand-painted botanical dictionary with illustrations of this plant species from the **Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth**.

Pich is a world-renowned artist whose works have been featured in numerous international museum exhibitions and biennials throughout the world, notably Documenta 2012, and a 2013 solo exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (*Cambodian Rattan: The Sculptures of Sopheap Pich*), which was the museum's first solo show ever given to a contemporary Southeast Asian artist. Most recently, his work is currently on view in the main exhibition at this year's 57th International Venice Biennale (La Biennale di Venezia), *Viva Arte Viva*, curated by Christine Macel, chief curator of the Centre Pompidou (Paris). Additionally, the world's premier museums have collected his work, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), M+ Museum for Visual Culture (Hong Kong), Singapore Art Museum, Queensland Art Gallery (Brisbane), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Albright-Knox Art Gallery (Buffalo) and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

"Sopheap's works, particularly his newest sculpture *Rang Phnom Flower*, reflects changing realities and mediates between representation and abstraction," said Jacqueline Chao, curator of Asian Art at the Crow Collection of Asian Art. "This exhibition examines our perceptual limits, but also invites us to consider how artistic modernities are defined in today's global art world."

Pich was born in Battambang, Cambodia, in 1971. He moved with his family to the U.S. in 1984 and received a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1999. In 2002, he returned to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where he is currently based.

Pich is known for working with local materials such as bamboo, rattan, burlap from rice bags, beeswax and earth pigments gathered from around Cambodia and making sculptures that are inspired by bodily organs, vegetal forms, and abstract geometric structures. His childhood experiences during the genocidal conditions of late 1970s Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979) has had a lasting impact on his work, informing its themes of time, memory and the body.

Pich's sculpture Rang Phnom Flower represents the cannonball tree ("rang phnom" in Khmer), which in Southeast Asia is associated with the sal tree under which the Buddha was born. This tree is often planted near Buddhist temples, and many can be found around the temples near Pich's studio on the outskirts of Phnom Penh.

- more -

Crow Collection of Asian Art presents solo exhibiton of Sopheap Pich – Page Two

The cannonball tree originated in the Americas and was introduced by Europeans to Sri Lanka, where it was soon revered for its resemblance to the sal tree. (The sal tree does not grow in tropical climates.) It was then

brought to Southeast Asia by Sri Lankans, who were responsible for the revitalization of Buddhism in that region.

Pich's tree is created at enormous over-sized scale. While conveying the power of nature, the sculpture also brings forward the plant's naturally abstract qualities by using precise grid-like structure and geometric shapes in order to consider concepts of scale, and illustrating how the large can be found within the small.

"It took a team of five people to help me create Rang Phnom Flower, my most ambitious single-form sculpture to date," says Pich. "I'm very honored that it will be prominently displayed at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, the Asian Art Museum of Dallas."

Hidden Nature: Sopheap Pich is curated by Jacqueline Chao, curator at the Crow Collection of Asian Art. The exhibition will be on view in the Mezzanine of the Crow Collection through January 7, 2018. A members preview reception will be held June 22, 6-8 p.m. and an Artist Talk with Pich will be held July 13, from 7-8:30 p.m.

The Crow Collection of Asian Art is open Tuesdays - Thursdays (10 a.m. - 9 p.m.), Fridays - Saturdays (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.), Sundays (noon - 6 p.m.) and closed on Mondays. Admission is free. The museum is located at 2010 Flora St, Dallas, Texas 75201. For more information, please go to crowcollection.org or call 214-979-6430.

###

About the Crow Collection of Asian Art

The Crow Collection of Asian Art features a variety of spaces and galleries with changing exhibitions featuring the arts and cultures of Asia, including China, Japan, India, Korea, Tibet, Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines, and from the ancient to the contemporary. Seventeen years in operation, this lovingly curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. Dedicated to providing art and service to the Dallas-Fort Worth community with an emphasis on shared learning and fun, the Crow Collection also offers a lushly landscaped outdoor Sculpture Garden, a pedestrian-friendly lobby and entrance, and a Samurai Gallery to showcase the museum's spectacular acquisition of a complete set of armor, considered one of the finest of its kind in the world. The Crow Collection of Asian Art is a 501c3 non-profit organization, and is supported, in part, by the generosity of Friends of the Crow Collection members and donors. Learn more at crowcollection.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Becky Mayad
work/ 214-352-1881
cell/ 214-697-7745
becky@mayadpr.com

Stacie Wheelock Adams
work/ 214-271-4485
cell/214-552-6416
sadams@crowcollection.org