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MEDIA ALERT

INAUGURAL JOHN JONES ART ON PAPER AWARD ANNOUNCES HASSAN SHARIF AND LUIS CAMNITZER OF ALEXANDER GRAY ASSOCIATES AS FIRST WINNERS OF THE PRIZE

Today at Art Dubai, the judges of the **John Jones Art on Paper Award** have selected artists **Hassan Sharif (UAE)** and **Luis Camnitzer (Uruguay)** as dual recipients of the inaugural award. The two artists are shown on the stand of New York gallery **Alexander Gray Associates (Stand A22)**.

The jury of the John Jones Art on Paper Award said, "We have chosen for the inaugural prize the pairing drawn between Hassan Sharif and Luis Camnitzer by Alexander Gray Associates. Both artists have had consequent drawing practices for many decades. Bringing their work together made us think anew about each artist's work and created an unexpected encounter. As Diaghilev and Cocteau said: 'Etonnez-moi.'"

The Award was conceived by master framers John Jones Ltd. and Art Dubai to recognize the potential for excellence and innovation for works made on paper. Sharif and Camnitzer will be given the opportunity to present a dedicated exhibition in Dubai between March 2012-2013, and in addition to the artists receiving a cash prize, the winning works will be acquired by the John Jones Contemporary Art Collection in London.

Whilst the prize was originally meant to award one artist, the judges were compelled by the gallery's pairing of work by Sharif and Camnitzer, which brings together artists from two different continents who are pioneers in advancing conceptual art across the globe, yet have never met. Following this unexpected result, the John Jones Art on Paper Award is determining what format the award will subsequently take and an announcement will be made in the next few weeks.

Matt Jones, Managing Director of John Jones Ltd., says, "This slightly curve ball decision from the judges presents an incredible opportunity - these are two important artists whose work offers many parallels and the idea that our award could enable them to meet and work together is very exciting. Dubai has a history as a melting pot of collaborations and crossovers so it seems particularly relevant for this to have happened here."

John Jones Ltd. appreciates the support of its judges Hans Ulrich Obrist, Kaelen Wilson-Goldie and Janah Hilwé.

John Jones Art on Paper Award Judges:

Janah Hilwé was born in Birzeit (Palestine) in 1943. She moved to Beirut in 1949

and currently lives on Cape Cod, Massachusetts (USA). After beginnings in painting and following her encounter with the conceptual works of Farid Sarroukh, Hilwé began to turn her attention to language, looking into aspects of time and space, and combining these conceptual investigations in her *Antithesis* series (1968-70). Hilwé's first solo exhibition was the mail art project *Two Untitled Projects* (1969), published in the magazine *0 to 9* (edited by Vito Acconci). She was the only Palestinian woman artist to participate in important exhibitions such as 'Concept Art' (1969) in Leverkusen (Germany), or 'Information' (1970) at the MoMA, New York. Hilwé first gained national attention in the Arab world in the 1970s as an influential and often controversial figure in the Amman, Cairo and Beirut art, performance and conceptual art movements. Once ironically termed the "witch of contemporary art," Hilwé achieved notoriety with her sensationalist performance work, in which she investigated the psychological experience of personal danger and physical risk.

Hans Ulrich Obrist, a native of Zurich, Switzerland, is co-director of the Serpentine Gallery in London. He has also served as curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2000–2006) and museum in progress, Vienna. Obrist has curated or co-curated more than 250 exhibitions, notably including: 'World Soup', 1991; Manifesta 1, 1996; 'Cities on the Move', 1997; 'Live/Life', 1996; 1st Berlin Biennale, 1998; 'Utopia Station', 2003; 2nd Guangzhou Triennale, 2005; Dakar Biennale, 2004; 1st & 2nd Moscow Biennale, 2005 and 2007; Lyon Biennale, 2007; and Yokohama Triennale, 2008; 'Il Tempo del Postino', co-curated with Philippe Parreno for the 2007 Manchester International Festival and also presented at Art Basel, 2009, organised by Fondation Beyeler and Theater Basel. Obrist founded the *Marathon* series in 2005, including *Interview Marathon* at Serpentine Gallery (2006), *Experiment Marathon*, *Manifesto Marathon* (2008) and *Poetry Marathon* (2009). Recent publications include *A Brief History of Curating*; *Gerhard Richter Text*; *Ai Weiwei, Ways Beyond Art*; *Pars Pro Toto II*; and *The Conversation Series*, Volumes 1–20.

Kaelen Wilson-Goldie is a writer and critic. She covers contemporary art and culture for the Lebanese newspaper *The Daily Star*, contributes regularly to *Artforum*, writes a column for *Frieze* and is a contributing editor for *Bidoun* magazine. As a journalist, she has published writing in *The New York Times*, *The Times of London* and *The Village Voice*, among many other publications. She was a 2007 fellow in the USC Annenberg Getty Arts Journalism Program, Los Angeles. As an essayist, she has written for *Afterall* and *Art Journal*, and contributed texts to numerous anthologies, monographs, and exhibition catalogues, including: *The Future of Tradition – The Tradition of Future* (2010); *Untitled Tracks: On Alternative Music in Beirut* (2009); *Foreword*, the catalogue accompanying Lebanon's first and only national pavilion at the Venice Biennale, Venice (2007); and *Out of Beirut* (2006). Wilson-Goldie lives and works in Beirut.

John Jones Ltd. is a London-based family business offering high quality fine art services to an international client base. The company has grown to encompass bespoke framing, artist surfaces, artwork installation, conservation, collection management, photography and printing to museum standards, and the team comprises of experts in the preservation and presentation of art.