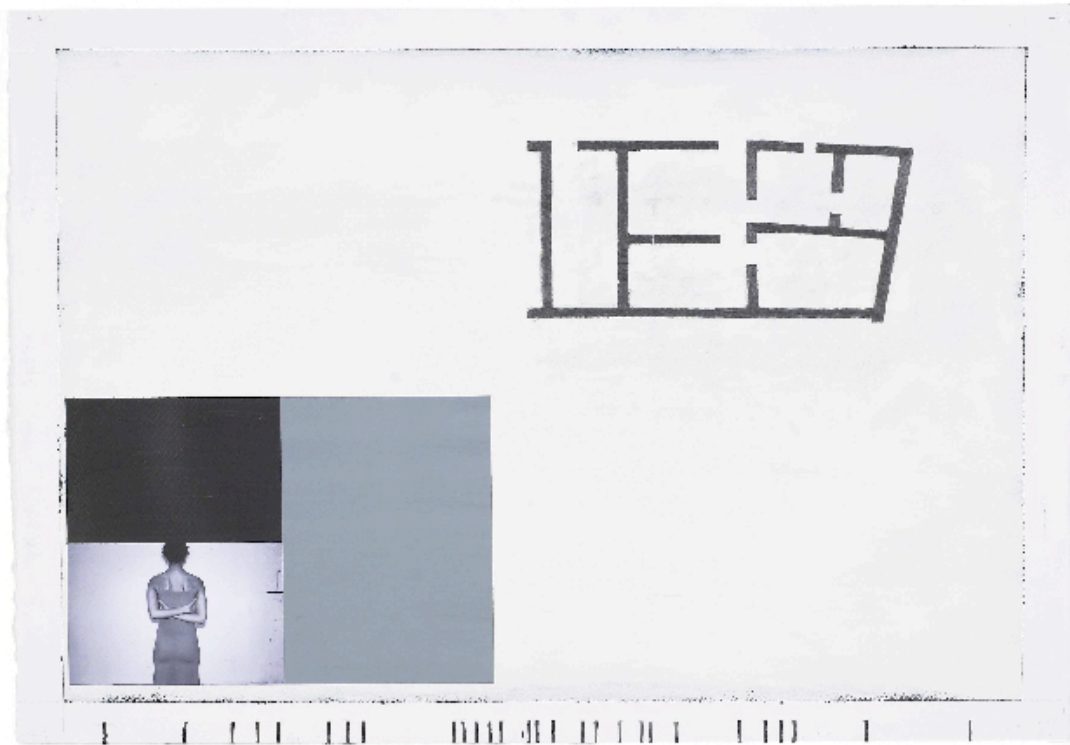


PARRISH ART MUSEUM

25 JOBS LANE, SOUTHAMPTON, NY 11968

T 631 283 2118 F 631 283 7006 PARRISHART.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**PARRISH ART MUSEUM PRESENTS MAJOR EXHIBITION OF
CELEBRATED PORTUGUESE ARTIST
JULIÃO SARMENTO
APRIL 17 – JUNE 12, 2011**

***EXHIBITION TO FEATURE MORE THAN 40 WORKS AND
SPECIAL COLLABORATION WITH RENOWNED AUTHOR JAMES SALTER***

***OPENING RECEPTION FEATURING CONVERSATION BETWEEN ARTIST AND AUTHOR
TO BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 16.***

SOUTHAMPTON, NY 1/30/2011 — *Julião Sarmento: Artists and Writers/House and Home*, an exhibition of more than forty paintings and works on paper by the acclaimed Portuguese artist, will be on view at the Parrish Art Museum from April 17 through June 12, 2011. Organized by Parrish Director Terrie Sultan, the exhibition will highlight the artist's longstanding engagement with the themes of language, writing, and a sense of place. As part of its ongoing commitment to enhance connections among the artistic disciplines, the Parrish Art Museum has commissioned renowned author and Bridgehampton resident James Salter to

collaborate with Julião Sarmento and contribute a new fictional short work to the Parrish Art Museum exhibition publication. *Artists and Writers/House and Home* will be the artist's first solo exhibition in a U.S. museum since the 1999 exhibition of *Fundamental Accuracy* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC.

An opening reception featuring a conversation between Julião Sarmento and James Salter as moderated by Parrish Art Museum Director Terrie Sultan will take place at the Parrish on Saturday, April 16 from 6 to 8 pm. For more information and reservations, please call 631-283-2118, ext. 41, or e-mail membership@parrishart.org.

For more than 30 years, Sarmento has incorporated influences from visual art, architecture, literature, psychology, philosophy, music, and film into powerful visual statements about social and psychological tensions and relationships. Recurrent motifs—such as the silhouette of the female figure, photographs that show only a partial view, or excerpts of text—suggest a layered feeling of something hidden, unfulfilled, or taboo.

According to Terrie Sultan, "He is a master of the fragmented narrative, breaking apart and reassembling images to create the contemporary equivalent of ancient word-pictures. His paintings and drawings are dramatic scenes, composed almost exclusively in black and white, expressed through seemingly simple yet elegantly rendered images that describe the fleeting nature of human experience. The female form functions as both the compositional focal point and intellectual backdrop against which sensuality, passion, voyeurism, and transgression play out, forming the core of Sarmento's reflections on the central themes of life: love, desire, and death."

Among the more than 40 paintings and works on paper to be featured, the Parrish exhibition will present work from Sarmento's "What Makes a Writer Great" series (2000-2001) which combines pictures with brief catch-phrases such as "his back" or "arrogant gait," the phrases offering suggestive clues to the pictorial elements' silent questions. "I function as a writer, not in the classic sense, but simply in the sense of writing with images," Sarmento has said. Further highlighting the artist's fascination with the relationships between images and written word; artists and writers, will be works from Sarmento's 2009 "Another" series featuring portraits of the female form, faceless and wearing a black dress, combined with

images taken from popular culture, among them, the illustrated covers of Paul Auster's novel *The Book of Illusions* and James Salter's *A Sport and a Pastime*.

Artists and Writers/House and Home will also present elements of Sarmento's longstanding interest in the idea of "home" with a series of works combining images of Sarmento's familiar woman in black with that of floor plans of various buildings. From the provocative etching and aquatint edition "Seven Houses and Six Flats" (2006), to works from the 2009 series of "Women and Houses and Plants" and "House of Games," both featuring large enamel, collage, and graphite on paper drawings, the Parrish Art Museum exhibition will present this persistent theme within Sarmento's oeuvre throughout the past decade. The Parrish Art Museum exhibition will also feature monumentally scaled mixed media works by Sarmento including *Anything To Fill In The Long Silences* (1998) and *Where Speech Could Have Been Transcribed* (2001).

Julião Sarmento was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1948 and studied painting and architecture at the Escola Superior de Belas Artes, where he earned a Masters Degree in 1976. He has exhibited widely for more than thirty years in prestigious institutions, exhibitions, and biennials. He has represented Portugal in the Venice Biennale twice in 1997 and 2010 and has participated in two Documentas. His work is included in distinguished collections including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), San Francisco; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Holland; and the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, among others. Julião Sarmento is currently represented by the Sean Kelly Gallery, New York.

The presentation of *Julião Sarmento: Artists and Writers/House and Home* and its accompanying programs are made possible, in part, with generous support from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Directorate-General for the Arts, Portuguese Ministry of Culture.

The Museum's programs are made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties, and the property taxpayers from the Southampton School District and the Tuckahoe Common School District.

*Image: Julião Sarmento, *Woman, House, Black and White*, 2008–2009, Water based enamel, collage and graphite on paper, 27 3/4 x 39 3/4 (unframed), Christopher Grimes Gallery, Santa Monica, C.A., Courtesy Parrish Art Museum.

About the Parrish Art Museum

The Parrish Art Museum is an American art museum located in Southampton, New York. Founded in 1897, the museum celebrates the artistic legacy of Long Island's East End, one of America's most vital creative centers. Since the mid 1950s the Museum has grown from a small village art gallery into an important art museum with a collection of more than 2,600 works of art from the nineteenth century to the present. It includes such contemporary painters and sculptors as John Chamberlain, Chuck Close, Eric Fischl, April Gornik, Elizabeth Peyton, as well as such masters as Dan Flavin, Roy Lichtenstein, Jackson Pollock, Lee Krasner, and Willem de Kooning. The Parrish houses among of the world's most important collections of works by the preeminent American Impressionist William Merritt Chase and by the groundbreaking post-war American realist painter Fairfield Porter. A vital cultural resource serving a diverse audience, the Parrish organizes and presents changing exhibitions and offers a dynamic schedule of creative and engaging public programs including lectures, films, performances, concerts, and studio classes for all ages. On July 19, 2010, the Parrish broke ground on a new building designed by internationally acclaimed architects Herzog & de Meuron. The 34,500-square-foot facility will triple the Museum's current exhibition space and allow for the simultaneous presentation of loan exhibitions and installations drawn from the permanent collection.

#

PARRISH ART MUSEUM SCHEDULE OF 2011 EXHIBITIONS

February 5–April 10, 2011

Esteban Vicente: Portrait of the Artist

April 17-June 12, 2011

Julião Sarmiento: Artists and Writers/House and Home

June 19 – August 14, 2011

Dorothea Rockburne: In My Mind's Eye

August 21 – Oct 9, 2011

Artists Choose Artists on the East End

Oct 16-Dec 4, 2011

American Portraits: Treasures from the Parrish Art Museum

MEDIA CONTACT:

FITZ & CO

Concetta Duncan

212-627-1455 x232

concetta@fitzandco.com