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## **BLENDING ART AND NATURE IN URBAN SETTING, NEW SCULPTURE GARDEN AT THE CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART TO DEBUT OCTOBER 5 WITH STUNNING WORKS OF ART**

**DALLAS (October 2, 2013)** – Ring the bell, dance to the drum, fold the crane and fly the kite as the new Crow Collection of Asian Art Sculpture Garden, featuring stunning outdoor works of art, is unveiled to the public Saturday, October 5, 2013. The new Sculpture Garden expands upon the collection housed in the museum fronting Trammell Crow Center, which is professionally leased and managed by Stream Realty Partners. Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, both the Sculpture Garden and museum are free and open to the public.

Culminating six years of thoughtful planning and development, the new Crow Collection of Asian Art Sculpture Garden spotlights contemporary and historical sculptures from Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia and China. Inspired by both Japanese and Chinese garden design principles, the garden features lush vegetation, sculptured trees, natural limestone boulders and slabs, and a dry landscape garden featuring clipped shrubbery and raked gravel.

The Sculpture Garden's completion marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation for the museum, which debuted in 1998, and replaces the European Sculpture Garden that was moved to Crow Holding's campus located at Old Parkland in 2010. The investment in the Crow Collection of Asian Art Sculpture Garden project currently tops \$3 million, which includes acquisitions of sculpture, landscaping and property enhancements.

**To mark this momentous expansion of the museum's footprint, the Crow Collection of Asian Art invites the entire community to the Arts District October 5, 2013, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for the first-ever Garden Party and Street Festival.** With non-stop art activities, food trucks, guided tours of the new Sculpture Garden, live music and traditional Asian dance performances including the crowd-favorite Dragon Dance, the free Garden Party and Street Festival will shut down Flora Street with an Asian-inspired celebration to rival the Crow's ever-popular Chinese New Year Street Party and Festival. (Full schedule of events attached).

"Visitors to the Sculpture Garden are going to find themselves surrounded by stunning works of art melding historical and contemporary sculpture amidst a beautifully serene backdrop of bamboo, maple trees and azalea bushes," said Amy Lewis Hofland, executive director of the Crow Collection of Asian Art.

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“Our hope is that the Sculpture Garden becomes a downtown oasis where people are drawn to explore, contemplate and enjoy the inseparable bond between art and nature. We think this will be especially meaningful and appreciated in the busy urban setting of the central city.”

The garden was designed and installed by Master Japanese Gardener and Landscape Architect John Powell; Ruben Garza with Oglesby Green served as chief architect with Johnny Robertson leading project management.

The fifteen sculptures of the Garden are scattered throughout the gardens surrounding the Trammell Crow Center building and includes three works displayed in the interior lobby of the Center. The Sculpture Garden is bounded by Olive Street on the east, Ross Avenue on the south, Harwood Street on the west, and Flora Street on the north side.

“The Nasher Sculpture Center is delighted to help welcome Liu Yonggang's *Buddha* to our Arts District neighborhood. Inaugurating the new Crow Collection of Asian Art sculpture garden, *Buddha* adds a significant new element to the remarkable groupings of outdoor sculpture at the Nasher Sculpture Center and the Dallas Museum of Art,” said Jeremy Strick, director of the Nasher Sculpture Center.

While the Sculpture Garden is home to a wide range of both distinguished and historical works of art, the most recent acquisitions include the sculptural work of two contemporary Chinese artists: *Shi of East and West* by Qin Feng and *Buddha* by Liu Yonggang. They join a previously installed contemporary bronze creation called *Sweepers* by Wang Shugang, commissioned in 2012, depicting three Tibetan monks in the act of sweeping, which is both a daily chore and ritualized practice.

Adorning elevated platforms at both corners of the Ross Avenue entrance of Trammell Crow Center is the majestic *Shi of East and West*, commissioned in 2011. In China, pairs of carved stone lions are traditionally placed as guardians outside the entrance to temples, palaces and official residences to convey protection and noble authority. Feng's lions are cleaved in half, and in between the sliced guardian animals is a pane of glass etched with a calligraphic, expressionistic brushstroke.

Another new installation can be found towering over the entrance to the Crow Collection, its top nestled within the branches of the trees along Flora Street. Crafted from steel and painted an eye-popping red is *Buddha*, an 18-foot-tall sculpture that was also commissioned in 2011. This three-dimensional "character" is a sculptural exploration of written language. Unlike the iconic round figure known by many, the 7,000 pound sculpture melds calligraphy letters – historical and contemporary – that represent the word *fo*, which loosely translates to mean Buddha and “enlightened one.”

To accent the sculptures in the garden and in the Trammell Crow Center lobby space, the museum presents the mind-bending, breathtaking sculpture entitled *china.porsche* by Ma Jun, another Chinese contemporary artist in the museum on temporary exhibition. Jun presents an investigation of the contemporary culture of conspicuous consumption of luxury goods coupled with a fascination with the Chinese art of painted porcelain, a luxury good and status symbol since its invention around the 10th century. Jun's work will be on view in the museum through May 25, 2014.

“Individually, these contemporary sculptures reflect each artist's personal interests and styles. But taken as a group, they present a snapshot of sculpture in contemporary China, a medium that has come to serve as the intersection of the many styles, cultures, media and artistic influences at play in this cosmopolitan crucible,” noted Dr. Karin Oen, curator of the Crow Collection of Asian Art. “Melding various characteristics of ancient traditions and artwork with their own personal, contemporary values makes these sculptures all the more compelling – drawing from the ancient ways, but adding their own twist.”

Historical works in the Garden include the clapper-less Bell and the Lantern, both from the Edo period in Japan; the Confucian Tomb Guardians from Korea's Joseon period; the Deified Laozi from China's late Ming dynasty; and the Makara, from Indonesia's Sailendra dynasty in the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

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Other works of art include *Civilization Landscape* by Chinese artist Qin Feng, porcelain, 2005; Columns with Confucian Scenes, China, early Qing dynasty (1644-1911), 18<sup>th</sup> century, marble; Court Attendant, China, Ming dynasty (1368-1644), 15<sup>th</sup> century, bronze (interior work); Jain Temple Columns, Gujarat, India, 16<sup>th</sup> century, marble (interior work); Guardian Lions, China, Qing dynasty (1644-1911), 17<sup>th</sup> century, marble; Screen with Beauties Four Seasons, China, Qing dynasty (1644-1911), 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jade panels in Zitan (interior work); and a Chinese Warrior, China, Qing dynasty (1644-1911), 18<sup>th</sup> century, granite. (See press kit materials for detailed descriptions of the works of art in the Sculpture Garden)

Admission to the Crow Collection and the Sculpture Garden is free. The Crow Collection of Asian Art museum is open Tuesdays – Thursdays (10 a.m. – 9 p.m.), Fridays – Saturdays (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.), Sundays (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and closed on Mondays. The exterior works of art in the Sculpture Garden are always open for visitors' enjoyment and reflection. The Museum is located at 2010 Flora Street, Dallas, TX, 75201. For more information, please go to [crowcollection.org](http://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 of the arts of China, Japan, India and Southeast Asia drawn from cultures ancient and contemporary. Celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation, this lovingly curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. Since opening its doors in 1998, the museum has seen more than 750,000 visitors, and currently averages more than 80,000 visitors a year. The Crow Collection continues to grow in art and service to the Dallas-Fort Worth community with an emphasis on shared learning and fun. New initiatives include the development of an Asian physical and mental wellness center endorsed by Dr. Andrew Weil as well as a Sculpture Garden slated to open to the public October 5, 2013. For more information, please go to [crowcollection.org](http://crowcollection.org).

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