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THE CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART UNVEILS VIVAN SUNDARAM: RE-TAKE OF AMRITA January 18, 2014 – June 1, 2014

DALLAS (January 8, 2014) – The Crow Collection of Asian Art is honored to present *Vivan Sundaram: Re-take of Amrita* January 18 –June 1, 2014. One of India's most celebrated artists, Vivan Sundaram brings his groundbreaking body of work which fuses photography, painting, family history, and autobiography into multi-faceted contemporary fictions in *Vivan Sundaram: Re-take of Amrita*. This series of digital photomontages utilizes images from his family archive, including photographs taken by his grandfather Umrao Singh Sher-Gil (1870-1954); the primary protagonist of the series is his aunt, the painter Amrita Sher-Gil (1913-1941).

Through the use of digital montage, Vivan Sundaram explores the interactions of characters and relations and creates moments lost in time. Amrita Sher-Gil, a pioneer of figurative modernist painting in India, appears throughout the images, as do her paintings, her Hungarian mother Marie Antoinette, and the photographs and self portraits by Umrao Singh Sher-Gil. Adding to the dreamlike state is Sundaram's deployment of reassembled staging, mirrors, and multiple reflections.

Several self absorbed young women are seen looking into mirrors. In the center is Marie Antoinette, a European woman, wearing a gorgeous oriental robe. She is pregnant with the baby that will be named Amrita. To her right is her now grown-up daughter Amrita – but there are two Amritas, one Indian and the other Hungarian, reflected in the mirror ... I too am seen reflected in a mirror, seated in my grandfather's lap. He is inducting me into this "collaborative" photographic project.
– Vivan Sundaram

In conjunction with *Re-take of Amrita*, the exhibition will include Sundaram's dual video/sound installation, *Indira's Piano*. The exhibition is curated by Esa Epstein, Director, sepiaEYE. An exhibition catalogue along with a two volume publication on Amrita Sher-Gil letters and writings are available in the Lotus Shop. The 30-minute film *Amrita Sher-Gil – A Family Album* presenting a personal account of the artist by her

niece Navina Sundaram will be shown prior to the Members' Preview reception Thursday, January 16, 2014 and again Friday March 21, 2014 at the museum's monthly Crow Collection After Dark.

Admission is free. 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 (12 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and closed on Mondays. For more information, please go to crowcollection.org or call 214-979-6430.

About Vivan Sundaram

Vivan Sundaram was born in 1943 in Shimla and now lives and works in New Delhi, India. As a member of the Sher-Gil family, Vivan Sundaram has been engaged with the Sher-Gil project for over thirty years – as artist, curator, editor, and archivist. The Sher-Gil Family, a painting made in 1983–84, and The Sher-Gil Archive, an installation made in 1995, are precursors to his *Re-take of Amrita* series.

Sundaram's work has been included in countless solo and group exhibitions and international biennials including Shanghai, Johannesburg, Gwangju, as well as in institutions such as; Herning Kunstmuseum; The Queens Museum of Art, New York; Fukuoka Asian Art Museum; National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi; and Tate Modern, London. In 2008 his work was shown in "Archive Fever: Uses of the Document in Contemporary Art," at the International Center of Photography, New York. The artist has published over ten books, most recently, *Trash* (2008), *Amrita Sher-Gil: An Indian Artist Family of the 20th Century* (2007) and *Re-take of Amrita* (2006).

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, Korea and Southeast Asia drawn from cultures ancient and contemporary. Fifteen years in operation, this lovingly curated free museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. 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 October 5, 2013.

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