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**TITAS PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AT&T
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART**

***The Dallas Debut of
Shen Wei Dance Arts Performance and Shen Wei Exhibition***

Dallas (May 12, 2014) – **TITAS PRESENTS**, in association with the AT&T Performing Arts Center, and in partnership with the **Crow Collection of Asian Art**, the Dallas debut of **Shen Wei Dance Arts** at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 19 at the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House in the Dallas Arts District.

The artist **Shen Wei** defies classification. He is a renowned choreographer and dancer who has also designed sets, video projections, costumes and makeup for his company's dance performances. The result is always a *gesamtkunstwerk*, a synthesis of the arts where creativity moves freely between mediums. Instead of conforming to a recognizable style, Shen Wei's creations are unified by his sensitivity to the expressive possibilities of gesture, color and shape. **In collaboration with this presentation, The Crow Collection of Asian Art will host an exhibition of Shen Wei's artwork June 14 through September 28, 2014.**

On June 19, 2014, prior to the performance at the Winspear Opera House, there will be a pre-show lecture held at the theater with TITAS Director Charles Santos, Choreographer Shen Wei and Crow Collection of Asian Art Director Amy Hofland.

Shen Wei has been internationally recognized for his many artistic accomplishments, including "Scroll," a stunning section of the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing in which dancers moved across a large rectangular cloth, their hands and feet dipped in paint, leaving behind the traces of their movement in ribbon-like lines. The mesmerizing synthesis of choreography and drawing came together at the end of the piece, when the dancers departed and the horizontal scroll was lifted into the air, revealing a landscape in the tradition of Chinese *shanshui*, mountains and water.

Shen Wei is one of the select few artists to have received the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Fellowship, and his breadth of creative artistic accomplishment reflects the diversity of his training and inspiration. From early study in the arts of Chinese opera and calligraphy to later interest in the painting of Cézanne, Degas, and Lucien Freud, these sources inform his practice and provide a launching pad for bold new directions. During the mid-1980s, Shen branched out from his childhood studies of traditional Chinese visual and performing arts to explore oil painting and modern dance, some of the “Western” arts closely identified with China’s significant period of artistic experimentation: the ’85 Art New Wave. Since 1995, Shen Wei has lived and worked in New York, where he has immersed himself in the vibrant cultural life of the city. His artistry as a dancer and choreographer has continued to relate to his keen interest in the visual arts on view in the city’s many galleries and museums as well as his own painting. As a result, he is a truly international artist whose work owes as much of a debt to the avant-garde and alternative art scenes of lower Manhattan as it does to classical Chinese arts.

In the significant recent series of paintings featured in this exhibition, Shen Wei narrows his focus to a study of the grisaille palette and the expressive textures of oil paint. These compositions in black, white and gray are shrouded in an aura of mystery. The shapes and textures can, in places, appear to resemble elements of a sublime and awesome landscape – jagged rocks, rushing water, imposing clouds, and elusive figures and animals. These same works, in places, recede into shadow, abstraction, and above all the materiality of a heavy impasto and thick textured paint on canvas. They have a dreamlike quality reminiscent of Surrealist explorations of the unconscious that melds, unexpectedly, with visible brushstrokes and the traces of swift, decisive action. Meditations on landscape, the subtly beautiful, and the strange have long been the domain of literati artists in China. Shen Wei, with this new series, takes these meditations to new heights and profound depths.

TITAS Official Hotel Sponsor: Sheraton Dallas

Season Sponsors include: Heritage Auctions, American Airlines, TACA, Texas Commission on the Arts, City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets for **Shen Wei Dance Arts** range from \$135 to \$12, with orchestra seat prices from \$80 to \$55, and can be purchased online at www.attpac.org/titas, by phone at 214-880-0202 or in person at the AT&T Performing Arts Center Information Center, 2353 Flora Street (Monday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.).
<http://titas.org>

Note: For downloadable press photos please visit www.attpac.org/media or www.crowcollection.org.

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About The Crow Collection

The Trammell & Margaret 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. Just 15 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.

TITAS, led by Charles Santos, has been presenting dance and music in Dallas for 30 years. It has a long history of artistic excellence and innovative programming. As the primary Dance Presenter in Dallas, TITAS dance presentations fill a unique niche in our cultural landscape. Over TITAS’ history, it has presented over 500 performances, with artists from more than 59 countries, over 150 debut events and well over 600 educational outreach events that include master classes, lecture/demonstrations, artists in residencies and Q&A post-performance sessions. Now

in partnership with the AT&T Performing Arts Center, TITAS brings its eclectic and innovative mix of contemporary dance and music artists to the Arts District.

About The AT&T Performing Arts Center

The **AT&T Performing Arts Center** is a nonprofit foundation that operates and programs three premier performance venues and a 10-acre park for music, opera, theatre and dance in the heart of downtown Dallas. Opened in October 2009, the Center helped complete the 30-year vision of the Dallas Arts District.

Audiences enjoy the best and most recent from Broadway with the Broadway Series; the finest in world dance and music co-presented with TITAS; top concerts, lectures and performers with Center Presents; and a five-year undertaking to present The Complete Works of William Shakespeare. The Center also presents a wide range of free programming for audiences from every part of Dallas, including Patio Sessions concerts, Sunset Screenings, Local Motion fitness programs and Studio 2403, dance classes in Sammons Park. The Center makes performance art accessible to thousands of local students through its education program, Open Stages. Through a variety of special programs and benefits, the Center's members and volunteers are able to become involved and engaged in the arts.

Five esteemed resident companies utilize the Center's performance spaces: Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, The Dallas Opera, Dallas Theater Center and Texas Ballet Theater.

The Center's Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, Elaine D. and Charles A. Sammons Park, and Annette Strauss Square are some of the finest venues for performances in the world, designed by internationally acclaimed architectural firms.

The Center's mission is to provide a public gathering place that strengthens community and fosters creativity through the presentation of performing arts and arts education programs. For more information on the AT&T Performing Arts Center, to become a member, or to make a donation, visit www.attpac.org.