

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUNDARAM TAGORE SINGAPORE PRESENTS
A SERIES OF GRAVITY-DEFYING
SCULPTURES BY BEIJING-BASED ARTIST
ZHENG LU**

Exhibition title: *Zheng Lu: Reflections on Still Water*

Exhibition dates: April 15 to May 19, 2016

Press preview with the artist: Thursday, April 14, 5 to 6 pm

VIP preview with the artist: Thursday, April 14, 6 to 9 pm

Artist talk Q&A: Saturday, April 16, 3 to 4pm

Venue: Gillman Barracks

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Water in Dripping - Splashing, 2014, stainless steel, 127 x 190 x 340 inches/322.5 x 482.6 x 863.6 cm

Singapore, February 29, 2016—Sundaram Tagore Singapore is pleased to announce an exhibition of gravity-defying metal sculptures by celebrated Beijing-based artist Zheng Lu. On view will be new works, pieces from his iconic *Water in Dripping* series, and the monumental installation that garnered international attention at Art Stage Singapore this year.

Transforming the gallery space, Zheng's restless stainless steel forms leap across the room evoking splashes of water suspended mid-air. His works are composed of thousands of Chinese characters, which are laser-cut into metal then hand-welded together in a fashion similar to linking chainmail. The interlocking forms are then molded into dynamic compositions. What results are ethereal sculptures that are technically astonishing; their fluid, animated forms are charged with energy or *qi*. "The manner in which light passes through the hollow sculpture makes my work appear weightless, which dissolves the traditional idea of sculptures being solid and grounded," says the artist.

Zheng's art is deeply influenced by his study of traditional Chinese calligraphy. A native of Inner Mongolia, he grew up practicing calligraphy with his grandfather and transcribing poetry for his father, a man of letters. His early works referenced Chinese calligraphy scrolls. He began carving characters into the surface of stainless steel sheets introducing negative spaces. The punctured metal pieces transformed a heavy, cold medium into something both physically and psychologically lighter and more engaging.



Water in Dripping - Yong, 2015, stainless steel, 41 x 64.2 x 43.3 inches/104 x 163 x 110 cm

The works from his *Water in Dripping* series are composed of text from the renowned Tang dynasty poet Bai Juyi's *Appreciation of Still Water*. Here, not only does Zheng celebrate the power of water, an element essential to our existence, but he also revels in Bai's unfettered imagination. His most recent works continue his exploration of water while evoking Chinese literati concepts of a contemplative journey within

nature. By using characters from texts of historical significance, he also draws on the custom of apprentices copying masters' works yet pushes this idea further by introducing new interpretations and possibilities.

A leading figure of his generation, Zheng Lu graduated from Lu Xun Fine Art Academy, Shenyang, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in sculpture in 2003. In 2007, he received his Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture from the Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing, while also attending an advanced study program at École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris in 2006 after being awarded the LVMH Young Artists' Award.

Zheng Lu (b. 1978) has participated in numerous exhibitions in China and abroad, including at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei; Museum *on the Seam*, Jerusalem; The Ekaterina Cultural Foundation, Moscow; Musée Océanographique, Monaco; Musée Maillol, Paris; the National Museum of China, Beijing and the Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai. His work is in collections worldwide including the Long Museum, Shanghai; Suzhou Museum, China; and the UBS collection.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Established in 2000 in New York, Sundaram Tagore Gallery is devoted to examining the exchange of ideas between Western and non-Western cultures. We focus on developing exhibitions and hosting not-for-profit events that encourage spiritual, social and aesthetic dialogues. With spaces in Singapore, Hong Kong and New York City (in Chelsea and on Madison Avenue), Sundaram Tagore Gallery was the first to focus exclusively on the rise of globalization in contemporary art. The gallery represents painters, sculptors and photographers from around the world. They each work in different mediums and use diverse techniques, but share a passion for cross-cultural dialogue. The gallery is renowned for its support of cultural activities that further its mission of East-West exchange.

For more information on the exhibition, email press@sundaramtagore.com or call +65 6694 3378.

Kindly RSVP for the press preview Thursday, April 14, by emailing rsvpsg@sundaramtagore.com.

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