

NOTED MEXICAN PAINTER RICARDO MAZAL MAKES SINGAPORE DEBUT AT SUNDARAM TAGORE GALLERY

Exhibition title: *Kailash: Black Mountain*

Exhibition dates: April 11 – May 15, 2014

Private preview with the artist: Friday, April 11, 6 – 9 pm



Ricardo Mazal in his studio, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2014. Photograph by Sofia Mazal.

Singapore, March 17, 2014 — For his first solo show in Singapore, Ricardo Mazal, one of Mexico's foremost contemporary artists, presents a multi-media exhibition with new paintings inspired by his journey to Mount Kailash, Tibet's holiest summit.

In 2004, the artist embarked on a trilogy examining the sacred burial rituals of three cultures, continents and time periods. His journey began at the Mayan tomb of the Red Queen in Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico, and continued at the Peace Forest cemetery in Odenwald, Germany. The final installment explores the sacred sky burials of Mount Kailash, where the artist performed the *kora*, a fifty-three-kilometer trek around the peak, and one of Tibetan Buddhism's most sacred rituals.

The work presented in this show—a multidisciplinary approach to painting that combines photography and digital technology—is a culmination of this near decade-long exploration into themes of life, death, transformation and regeneration.

Kailash: Black Mountain is a conceptual re-creation of the artist's acclaimed five-month exhibition at the Museo Estación Indianilla in Mexico City, which had record attendance. The exhibition features large-scale paintings, photographs, a video of the *kora* pilgrimage and music composed for the project by Mario Lavista, Mexico's pre-eminent contemporary composer.

Ricardo Mazal merges varied observations of the natural world, such as the snow-streaked black-and-white surface of Mount Kailash, to produce gestural, abstract paintings comprised of geometric forms. In each of his investigations, photographs have been the impetus. For Mazal, photography is a bridge that links reality to abstraction. He begins by shooting photographs, then manipulates them on the computer to compose a digital sketch. He then moves onto linen, delicately layering oil paint using foam-rubber blades. To reveal luminous passages of color, Mazal sweeps a dry blade with varying degrees of pressure across the canvas. The vestiges of paint are almost embryonic in structure with faint texture and hue.

At regular intervals, Mazal photographs his painting-in-progress. Returning to his computer, he creates hybrid sketches that fuse the photographs of the painting with the virtual drawing, allowing him to revisit his composition. Often, Mazal's influences will also spring from images of previous paintings, which he incorporates into new digital sketches. It is a regenerative and cyclical process closely paralleling the themes he explores.

Mazal's paintings will be on display concurrently at Sundaram Tagore Hong Kong, through May 3. More experimental than his previous work, these paintings are composed of deconstructed elements from his earlier *Mount Kailash* paintings.

Ricardo Mazal was born in Mexico City in 1950. He has exhibited extensively in galleries and museums throughout the Americas and Europe, including the Museo Estación Indianilla, Mexico City; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Mexico; Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City; the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona; the Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico; and the Americas Society, New York. In 2006, a retrospective of his work was held at the Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City.

His work is included in the collections of the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona; Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City; Museo de Arte Abstracto Manuel Felguerez, Zacatecas, Mexico; Maeght Foundation, Paris; Centro de las Artes, Monterrey, Mexico; Cirque du Soleil, Montreal; the Peninsula Hotel, Shanghai; and Deutsche Bank, New York and Germany.

Mazal divides his time between New York City and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

For more information please email press@sundaramtagore.com or call +65 6694 3378

SINGAPORE

01-05 Gillman Barracks, 5 Lock Road, Singapore 108933 • tel +65 6694 3378
singapore@sundaramtagore.com

NEW YORK

Chelsea: 547 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001 • tel 212 677 4520
Madison Avenue: 1100 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10028 • tel 212 288 2889
galleries@sundaramtagore.com

HONG KONG

57-59 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong • tel +852 2581 9678
hongkong@sundaramtagore.com