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**FOTOFEST2006 International Fine Print Auction**  
**March 14, 2006**  
**Houston, Texas**

For Immediate Release

Houston, Texas (February 14, 2006) — FotoFest is hosting its biennial International Fine Print Auction and fundraiser on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown in Houston.

FotoFest's Fine Print Auction is FotoFest's principal fundraiser and a highlight of FotoFest's internationally known Biennial of Photo-related Art. The auction brings curators, museum directors and collectors from all over the world. It offers collectors rare access to broad range of contemporary works by top artists from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Canada and the United States. The artists and works are selected on the basis of quality and importance.

Denise Bethel, Senior Vice-President, Sotheby's New York, Director, Photographs Department, conducts the auction. Ms. Bethel leads the fine print division of Sotheby's and has over 26 years experience in the field.

The auction, known for the quality of its art works, attracts both experienced and beginning collectors in Houston. "We hope that people have a good time and come away with good art," says Meg King Murray, who is co-chairing the auction with her husband Nelson Murray.

Eighty-five prints are being presented in the live auction and another 20 prints are part of the silent auction. Among the artists are Chema Madoz (Spain), Lalla Essaydi (Morocco and Saudi Arabia), Keith Carter (U.S.), Andrey Chezhin (Russia), Liliana Porter (Argentina and U.S.), MANUAL (U.S.), and Luis Gonzalez Palma (Guatemala).

The Doubletree Hotel Downtown is a major sponsor of the evening which features cocktails and music, an auction preview and dinner preceding the live auction.

The 2006 auction honors a well-known Houstonian, activist in the arts, and former director of the national Institute for Museum Services, Daphne Murray Gawthrop. Ms. Gawthrop worked with FotoFest and served on FotoFest Board of Directors for many years.

Sponsorship tables are \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500. Reserved seating is \$150 a person. General admission is \$50.00.

Revenues from print sales at the Fine Print Auction benefit artist programs and the Meeting Place portfolio reviews, allowing hundreds of photographic artists to exhibit work and show their portfolios to important museum curators, publishers, gallery owners, and representatives of photo agencies from the United States, Mexico, South America, Australia, Canada and Europe.

Proceeds from auction ticket and table sponsorships benefit FotoFest's year-round Literacy Through Photography (LTP) educational program in Houston-area public schools.

For information on table sponsorships, contact Auction Chair Meg Murray at 713-807-8881 or [mmurray@cjstick.com](mailto:mmurray@cjstick.com) . For general information, contact FotoFest Auction Coordinator, Martha Skow at 713-223-5522.

A number of preview events lead up to the Live Auction on March 14, 2006. An Auction party at Bering and James Gallery is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2006 from 6 – 9 pm. A limited number of prints are available for viewing. All works may be seen in the Auction Preview Exhibition at Gremillion & Co. Fine Art Gallery from March 1-11, 2006. The opening reception, cocktails and tour of the Auction Preview is 6 - 8pm on Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

The works are also available online in late January 2006 on the FotoFest website [www.fotofest.org/ff2006/auction.htm](http://www.fotofest.org/ff2006/auction.htm). Absentee bids are accepted via post, fax or email ([projects@fotofest.org](mailto:projects@fotofest.org)) until 1:00 p.m., March 13, 2006. For more information on absentee bids see [www.fotofest.org/ff2006/auction.htm](http://www.fotofest.org/ff2006/auction.htm).

FOTOFEST2006, the eleventh international Biennial of Photography and Photo-related Art, takes place throughout Houston and surrounding countries, March 10-April 23, 2006.