

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***Shen Wei - In Black, White and Gray* Exhibition Opens During Art Basel Miami Week Featuring World Premiere Performances by Shen Wei Dance Arts**

*Presented by MDC Museum of Art + Design and MDC Live Arts*

**Miami, Oct. 22, 2014** – Miami Dade College's (MDC) Museum of Art + Design (MOAD) and MDC Live Arts present ***Shen Wei – In Black, White and Gray***, the complete series of groundbreaking paintings unveiled for the first time in the U.S. with never-before-seen choreography by the award-winning artist. Five public performances by Shen Wei Dance Arts will coincide with the exhibition opening from **Friday, December 5 to Sunday, December 7 during Art Basel Miami Beach week at MDC's National Historic Landmark Freedom Tower** in downtown Miami. The exhibition of his paintings will remain on view at the museum through February 1, 2015. Both the exhibit and performances are free and open to the public.

An invitation-only preview and reception for select guests and Art Basel VIP Cardholders is scheduled for 8 p.m., Thursday, December 4. RSVP is required; working media are invited. A Collectors Cocktail and panel discussion with Shen Wei; Weng Ling, one of China's leading art curators and the founder and artistic director of the Beijing Center for the Arts; Dr. Karen Oen, Crow Collection of Asian Art curator; and Charles Reinhart, Director Emeritus of the American Dance Festival, will take place on at 4 p.m., Friday, December 5, at the Viceroy Miami hotel. As part of Art Basel Miami Beach's compelling Salon series—a program that offers unique insight into contemporary art practice—Shen Wei, MOAD Executive Director Jeremy M. Mikolajczak, and Weng Ling will appear together in conversation on Saturday, December 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

*Shen Wei - In Black, White and Gray* is being presented at the College's flagship institution dedicated to the presentation and exhibition of visual art and design. This is Shen Wei Dance Arts' second visit to Miami presented by MDC Live Arts, having performed his acclaimed work *Rite of Spring* in 2003.

Unveiling 11 new paintings, this body of work is a study of contrasts: light and dark, turbulent and tranquil. They explore the nuances of a grisaille palette with shapes and forms powered by a dynamism and force suggestive of sublime landscapes, yet they recede into abstraction and the materiality of paint. In these canvases, Shen Wei's lifelong study of Chinese ink painting converges with his deep interest in Western oil painting, and is in dialogue with his choreography for this series.

Shen Wei has stated, "I was not taught the arts separately and I don't separate them in my work." Growing up in China, Shen Wei was immersed in the rigorous study of Chinese opera performance techniques, calligraphy, and Chinese and Western painting (the latter through "underground" access) before being drawn to modern dance as a teenager. From his earliest dances, Shen Wei has been interested in creating "a total work of art" – a *Gesamtkunstwerk*. Designing his own sets, costumes and make-up, he creates works where the visual environment and dance together shape a piece. Similarly, as a visual artist, he brings to his canvas the energy of movement. His artistry is galvanized by his enduring passion for the moving body and the moving brush.

Shen Wei, a choreographer, director, dancer, painter, and designer, is internationally renowned for the breadth and scope of his artistic vision. He is perhaps best recognized as the lead choreographer for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, which earned acclaim worldwide. *The Washington Times* has called Shen Wei, "One of the great artists of our time," and *The New York Times* proclaimed, "If there is something to write home about in the dance world, it is the startlingly imaginative work of the Chinese-born choreographer Shen Wei."

His talent has earned him a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, Australia's Helpmann Award and the U.S. Artists Fellow Award. Last year, Shen Wei was honored as Artist of the Year by Audi-China and *GQ-China*, and Innovator of the Year by the *Wall Street Journal-China*. Recently, his work as a visual artist and choreographer has entered into a new dialogue in a series of performative installations and site-specific works, which have been presented at a number of museums and galleries, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, N.C., Collezione Maramotti in Reggio Emilia, Italy, the Rockbund Museum of Art in Shanghai, China, the Forum at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, CA, and the Kennedy Center Atrium in Washington, DC.

### **About MDC Museum of Art + Design**

MDC Museum of Art + Design (MOAD) is Miami Dade College's flagship institution dedicated to the presentation and exhibition of visual art and design, housed at the National Historic Landmark Freedom Tower at Miami Dade College in Downtown Miami. The mission of the Museum is to promote the appreciation and understanding of art and its role in society through direct engagement with original works of art from within the College's extensive permanent collection and temporary exhibitions. Furthermore, the Museum presents year-round lectures, symposiums and art-related events to expose, educate and engage the greater public through related creative processes.

The MDC Museum of Art + Design provides its patrons and visitors access to unique cultural, historical and educational exhibitions that enrich the greater community while building and preserving an expansive permanent art collection. Miami Dade College has been collecting art since the 1960s. Over the years, the collection has grown to contain more than 1,600 works in all mediums and genres, specifically within the movements of minimalism, pop art of the '60s and '70s, conceptual art and contemporary Latin American art. The College and Museum actively acquire works by emerging and under-recognized artists, as well as major figures in modern, post-modern and contemporary art.

### **About MDC Live Arts**

Miami Dade College is proud to be the home of MDC Live Arts, an initiative of MDCulture. Created in 1990 as Cultura del Lobo, MDC Live Arts has a celebrated history bringing exceptional national and international performing artists to venues across Miami. Annually, the series offers an eclectic mix of performances, presenting today's most exciting artists while creating meaningful engagement between these artists, the students of MDC, and the community. MDC Live Arts seeks artists from across the globe who push boundaries and honor traditions relevant to Miami's diverse community. The series aims to offer audiences opportunities to discover new ideas, perspectives and forms of expression while encouraging dialogue and the desire to know more.

- WHAT:** MOAD & MDC Live Arts Present the World Premiere of  
*Shen Wei – In Black, White and Gray*
- EXHIBITION & PERFORMANCES:** Friday, Dec. 5 – Sunday Dec. 7, 2014  
Exhibition with Free Live Public Performances by Shen Wei Dance Arts  
Limited seating available at [www.mdclivearts.org](http://www.mdclivearts.org)  
Matinee: 1 p.m. | Evening: 8 p.m. (Friday & Saturday only)
- EXHIBITION ONLY:** Wednesday, December 10 – Sunday, February 1, 2015  
Museum Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.  
MDC Museum of Art + Design  
The Freedom Tower at MDC, 600 Biscayne Blvd., Downtown Miami
- PREVIEW:** Thursday, December 4 at 8 p.m. - VIP Performance by Shen Wei Dance Arts  
Exhibition Preview & Cocktail Reception  
MDC Museum of Art + Design  
The Freedom Tower at MDC, 600 Biscayne Blvd., Downtown Miami
- ARTIST TALKS:** Friday, December 5 at 4 p.m. - Cocktails + Conversation  
Shen Wei in conversation with Karin Oen, Charles Reinhart & Weng Ling  
Invited Guests & Art Basel VIP Cardholders  
Viceroy Miami, 485 Brickell Ave., Brickell Miami
- Saturday, December 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. - ABMB: Salon Talk Series with  
Shen Wei, Jeremy M. Mikolajczak, and Weng Ling  
Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach

**For more information about the exhibition, events or VIP Opening Reception at MDC Museum of Art + Design, please contact the Museum at 305-237-7710 or [museum@mdc.edu](mailto:museum@mdc.edu).**

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