



540 President Street, Suite 1A, Brooklyn, NY 11215 | 718.254.9782 | www.groundswellmural.org

Contact:
Sharon Polli (718) 254 9782
sharon@groundswellmural.org
Madeleine LeMieux (718) 254 9782
madeleine@groundswellmural.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2012

Groundswell Announces Sweet 16 Art Auction Benefit

Event Date: Wednesday, October 10

Event Location: 7 World Trade Center, 10th Floor, 250 Greenwich Street, NYC

NEW YORK, NY – **Groundswell** announces its 2012 Sweet 16 Art Auction Benefit, in support of the organization's public artmaking programs. The Benefit will honor contemporary artist **Hank Willis Thomas**, internationally recognized law firm **Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP**, and patrons of the arts **Susan Ochshorn and Marc Gross**. The event will feature a silent and live auction of over 60 art works generously donated by both emerging and internationally-renowned artists, including Thomas, **Richard Serra, Kehinde Wiley, and Swoon**. Presented by the 2012 Benefit Committee, led by Committee Chairs **Jay DeDapper, Dina Bleecker, and Jenny Laden**, the Sweet 16 Art Auction Benefit will take place on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 7:00pm at 7 World Trade Center, overlooking the newly opened 9/11 Memorial.

Each of the three 2012 Sweet 16 honorees has made a unique contribution to Groundswell over the organization's 16-year history, furthering its work to bring together artists, youth, and community organizations to transform New York City's urban landscape through public art.

As one of today's most provocative and compelling visual artists, **Hank Willis Thomas** is an inspiration to thousands of New York City teens like those engaged each year by Groundswell's youth programs. Thomas has exhibited in galleries throughout the United States and abroad. His work is held in numerous public collections including The Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and The Museum of Modern Art.

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP is widely recognized for its pro bono legal work on behalf of those who cannot otherwise obtain legal representation. Groundswell's pro bono law firm since 2006, Davis Polk & Wardwell has been an incredible asset in helping Groundswell to create public art in partnership with thousands of New York City youth.

Patrons of the arts **Susan Ochshorn and Marc Gross** are passionate advocates for the arts and education. Their early commitment to Groundswell helped catalyze the organization's growth into New York's leading organization dedicated to community public art. Ochshorn is the founder and principal of ECE PolicyWorks LLC and Gross is Managing Partner at Pomerantz Grossman Hufford Dahlstrom & Gross LLP.

"As we celebrate our Sweet 16," said Groundswell Executive Director Amy Sananman, "we look forward to hosting our most successful annual art auction to date. In addition to highlighting the work

of over sixty incredible artists, this event will bring together Groundswell's broader community of artists, partners, individual supporters, and young people to celebrate three remarkable honorees and raise vital funds to support our efforts to use art as a tool for social change throughout the year."

In addition to established artists such as **Lady Pink, Tom Otterness, and Mark di Suvero**, the auction will also include emerging artists actively progressing in their careers, such as **Jessica Stoller** who is a 2012 Artist in Residence at the Museum of Arts and Design's Open Studio Program in New York. The evening's exhibition will also feature a series of **mural design sketches** created by youth participating in Groundswell's flagship Summer Leadership Institute, and work by Groundswell muralists, including **Sophia Dawson, Conor McGrady, Mauricio Trenard, and Katie Yamasaki**.

Sara Friedlander, a Post-War and Contemporary Art Specialist at Christie's, will be the auctioneer for the evening. Friedlander began her career at Christie's in the Post-War and Contemporary Department in 2006 working on the installation of 150 live pigeons sold as part of an installation piece by Kadar Attia in the Pierre Huber sale. Since then, Friedlander has been responsible for cataloguing and researching the biennial Morning and Afternoon Sales. She currently heads the First Open Post-War and Contemporary Art Sale, the highest grossing mid-season sale in its category at Christie's.

The complete list of 2012 Sweet 16 Art Auction contributing artists includes Maria Elena Alvarez Lourens, Audrey Anastasi, Mildred Beltré, Lordan Bunch, Jason Castro, Tillamook Cheddar, Saiman Chow, Peter Coley, Ricardo Cortés, Susan Cottle Alberto, Craig Damrauer, Sophia Dawson, Edward del Rosario, Mark di Suvero, Scott Dolan, Patrick Dougher, Aleksandar Duravcevic, Purdy Eaton, Sarah Emond, Ron English, Herb Fixler, Billy Frey, Christopher Griffith, Jason Gringler, David Guinn, Erica Harris, Ray Henders, Phoebe Joel, Bo Joseph, Alan Ket, Ellen Kozak, Jenny Laden, Lady Pink, Madeleine LeMieux, Shaun El C. Leonardo, Joshua Levine, Philip Levine, Taryn Longo, Nicola Lopez, Rene Lynch, Elizabeth Maroney, Conor McGrady, Jason Middlebrook, Sioux Nesi, Tom Otterness, Jessica Poplawski, Ricky Powell, Steve Powers, Madeleine Roslow, Richard Serra, Xaviera Simmons, Dan Slabonik, Jessica Stoller, Swoon, Hank Willis Thomas, Adrian Tone, Mauricio Trenard, Charmaine Wheatley, Edwina White, Kehinde Wiley, Deborah Willis, Katie Yamasaki, and Raphael Zollinger.

The Groundswell Sweet 16 Art Auction Benefit is proudly supported by 2012 Premier sponsors **Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, Silverstein Properties, and Sweet N' Low**; Patrons of the Arts sponsors **Jay Eisenhofer and Anne Jameson**; and Distinguished sponsors **Goldstein Hall, LLC, Hayward Industries, and Pomerantz Grossman Hufford Dahlstrom & Gross LLP**. Additional sponsors include **Benchmark Title Agency LLC, Café Habana, EILEEN FISHER, Glancy Binkow & Goldberg LLP, Jenny Holzer Studio LLC, Hamlin Ventures, and Pop Weaver**. The event's Media sponsor is **Artforum**.

Groundswell Sweet 16 Art Auction Benefit

Date Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 7:00pm

Location 7 World Trade Center, 10th Floor

250 Greenwich Street

New York, NY 10007

Cost Tickets start at \$50, sponsorships from \$1,000

More information at www.groundswellmural.org

Online Auction Preview at www.32auctions.com/groundswellsweet16