ANISH KAPOOR INSTALLATION OPENS OCTOBER 21 AS PART OF MUSEUM’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Deutsche Bank Series at the Guggenheim

Anish Kapoor: Memory

Venue: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Avenue, New York
Dates: October 21, 2009–March 28, 2010
Preview: Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 9–11 am

(NEW YORK, NY – August 4, 2009) – Memory (2008), a new major site-specific sculpture installation by leading international artist Anish Kapoor, will be on view at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum from October 21, 2009, to March 28, 2010, as part of the Deutsche Bank Series at the Guggenheim. Anish Kapoor: Memory is the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation’s first collaboration with the artist, who is celebrated for his expansive and profound aesthetic vision. The work is the 14th in a series of artist projects commissioned by Deutsche Bank and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation for the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin.

Since the late 1970s, Kapoor has extended the scope and language of contemporary sculpture through his explorations of scale, color, and the concept of the void. Constructed of Cor-Ten steel—a new material for the artist—Memory is a milestone for the artist. The work is composed of 154 Cor-Ten steel tiles, measures 14.5 x 9 x 4.5 meters overall, and weighs 24 tons. Its form nearly fills the gallery it occupies, challenging and altering the museum’s architecture through its improbable scale and proportions. The title Memory alludes to how visitors encounter the work, which can never be seen in its entirety and remains largely hidden from view.

This exhibition is made possible by Deutsche Bank.

Additional support is provided by the International Director’s Council of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

The Leadership Committee for Anish Kapoor: Memory is gratefully acknowledged.

Anish Kapoor: Memory was initiated in 2006 by Alexandra Munroe, Senior Curator of Asian Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and is curated by Sandhini Poddar, Assistant Curator of Asian Art. In early 2007, Kapoor was invited to create a site-specific work capable of engaging two different exhibition locations: the Deutsche Guggenheim, where the work
debuted in November 2008, and the Guggenheim Museum. “The Guggenheim Museum is delighted to present Anish Kapoor’s *Memory* in New York in our Deutsche Bank series of commissioned works by leading contemporary artists,” remarked Richard Armstrong, Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and Museum. “This show is presented as part of the museum’s 50th Anniversary program and underscores our commitment to the importance of working with living artists,” continued Armstrong.

Kapoor’s earlier large-scale, site-specific installations, such as *Taratantara* (1999), *Marsyas* (2002), and *Svayambh* (2007), succeeded in creating new perceptions of space through their distortions of scale. Continuing these types of distortions, *Memory*’s enormous size prevents viewers from perceiving a gestalt. The work divides the gallery space into several distinct viewing areas, which can be approached either from the museum ramps, elevator banks, or the adjacent gallery. Visitors to the Guggenheim Museum are compelled to navigate different sections of the building as each vantage point offers only a glimpse of either the sculpture’s exterior form or its interior shell. This processional method of viewing the sculpture is an intrinsic aspect of the work. Kapoor asks visitors to connect and construct the fragmented images of *Memory* retained in their minds and thus exert more effort in their acts of seeing. Kapoor calls this process creating a “mental sculpture.”

As a 24-ton volume of Cor-Ten steel, *Memory* is vast, ineffable, raw, and industrial. Compressed into one of the Guggenheim Museum’s annex galleries, the sculpture’s sheer volume is foreboding, as its peripheries glance against the gallery walls and ceiling with the utmost precision. From within, *Memory*’s seamless eight-millimeter-thick steel tiles, meticulously manufactured to ensure absolute darkness inside, read as one continuous form. Viewable only through a two-square-meter aperture, these seamless tiles create the boundless void of *Memory*’s cavernous interior. Kapoor has created a sculpture whose interior space seems much more vast than that defined by its exterior form. This contradiction between the real and the perceived is one of Kapoor’s central interests. A staircase leading from the adjacent gallery offers a view through the aperture. The precise wedging of this hole into the gallery wall defines a flat, two-dimensional plane that, from a certain distance, appears as a painting rather than an opening. Kapoor’s interest in this pictorial effect is best reflected in his frequently quoted statement, “I am a painter working as a sculptor.”

This new commission was engineered by the UK-based firm Aerotrope Limited and manufactured by Centraalstaal B.V. in Groningen, Netherlands.

Born in 1954 in Bombay (now Mumbai), India, Kapoor currently lives and works in London. His work has been exhibited extensively both internationally and in London, including solo shows at the Kunsthalle Basel; Tate Modern, London; Hayward Gallery, London; Museo nacional centro de arte Reina Sofia, Palacio de Velázquez, Madrid; CAPC Musée d’art contemporain, Bordeaux; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; and MAK–Österreichisches Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna. He represented Britain at the 1990 Venice Biennale and was awarded its Premio Duemila prize. In 1991 he received the prestigious Turner Prize. He has undertaken a number of major large-scale installations and commissions, including *Taratantara* (BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK, 1999, and Piazza del Plebicito, Naples, 2000–01), *Marsyas* (Tate Modern, London, 2002–03), *Cloud Gate* (Millennium Park, Chicago, 2004–), *Sky Mirror* (Rockefeller Center, New York, 2006), and *Svayambh* (Haus der Kunst, Munich, 2007–08). The major solo exhibition *Anish Kapoor*, organized by the Royal Academy of Arts in London, will travel to the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in March 2010.

**Exhibition Catalogue**

The accompanying exhibition catalogue offers in-depth analyses of Kapoor’s creative and intellectual process and documents *Memory*’s development from the initial models to its final form at the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin. The richly illustrated publication
features a comprehensive exhibition history and bibliography and provides a broad critical framework with multidisciplinary essays by Steven Holl, Principal of Steven Holl Architects, with David van der Leer, Assistant Curator of Architecture and Design, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Christopher Hornzee-Jones, Director, Aerotrope Limited; Henri Lustiger-Thaler, Professor of Sociology, Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey; Poddar; and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, University Professor and Director of the Center for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University. Priced at $45 (hardcover), the exhibition catalogue *Anish Kapoor: Memory* can be purchased at the Guggenheim Store or online at guggenheimstore.org.

**About the Deutsche Bank Series at the Guggenheim and the Deutsche Guggenheim Commission Program**

*Anish Kapoor: Memory* inaugurates the Deutsche Bank Series at the Guggenheim, which is dedicated to exhibiting in New York works of art commissioned jointly by Deutsche Bank and the Guggenheim Foundation as well as other thematic exhibitions, after their initial presentation at the Deutsche Guggenheim.

In 1997, the Guggenheim Foundation and Deutsche Bank opened the Deutsche Guggenheim and launched a unique and ambitious program of contemporary art commissions. This collaboration has enabled the Guggenheim Foundation to act as a catalyst for artistic production. The Deutsche Guggenheim was conceived as a partnership and consists of three main objectives: the presentation of thematic exhibitions that recognize artists who have contributed significantly to the development of art; the presentation of works from the Deutsche Bank Collection; and the commissioning of site-specific works by both emerging and established artists. The artists who have created new works as part of this program since its inception are John Baldessari, Hanne Darboven, Anish Kapoor, William Kentridge, Jeff Koons, Gerhard Richter, James Rosenquist, Andreas Slominski, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Bill Viola, Jeff Wall, Phoebe Washburn, Lawrence Weiner, and Rachel Whiteread.

**About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation**

Founded in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art, primarily of the modern and contemporary periods, through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. Currently the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation owns and operates the Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue in New York and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection on the Grand Canal in Venice, and also provides programming and management for two other museums in Europe that bear its name: the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin. The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Museum, a museum of modern and contemporary art designed by architect Frank Gehry, is scheduled to open in 2013.

**About the Asian Art Initiative**

In 2006, the Guggenheim Museum became the first international modern and contemporary art museum in the West to establish a curatorial position for Asian art. This commissioned project by Kapoor represents the third exhibition in New York to be realized under the curatorial direction of the Asian art initiative, following closely on the heels of *Cai Guo-Qiang: I Want to Believe* (2008) and *The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860–1989* (2009). The Asian art initiative is supported by the Guggenheim Museum’s Asian Art Advisory Board, which was established in 2007. Central to the museum’s Asian art activities is the formation, also in 2007, of the Asian Art Council, a group of museum directors, scholars, curators, and artists who serve as a curatorial think tank, mapping the intellectual course of modern and contemporary Asian art and debating key issues pertinent to its curatorial practice.
VISITOR INFORMATION

**Admission:** Adults $18, students/seniors (65+) $15, members and children under 12 free. Admission includes audio tour.

**Museum Hours:** Sun–Wed 10 am–5:45 pm; Fri 10 am–5:45 pm; Sat 10 am–7:45 pm; closed Thurs. On Saturdays, beginning at 5:45 pm, the museum hosts Pay What You Wish. For general information call 212 423 3500 or visit guggenheim.org.

October 16, 2009 (updated from August 4, 2009)

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The Deutsche Bank Series at the Guggenheim

Anish Kapoor: Memory

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
October 21, 2009—March 28, 2010

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Memory, 2008
Cor-Ten steel, 14.5 x 9 x 4.5 m
Commissioned by Deutsche Bank in consultation with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation for the Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin
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Anish Kapoor
Image: Courtesy Aerotrope Limited
Anish Kapoor, 2007
Photo: Phillipe Chancel

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Artwork © Anish Kapoor. Photo: David Heald © The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

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Installation view: The Deutsche Bank Series at the Guggenheim, Anish
Kapoor: Memory, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York,
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Artwork © Anish Kapoor. Photo: David Heald © The Solomon R.
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