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 6 March 2015

**THE PENINSULA HOTELS CONTINUES TO PRESENT GROUNDBREAKING
PUBLIC ART EVENTS, INCLUDING A PIONEERING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
THE PENINSULA HONG KONG AND THE UK'S ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS**

The Peninsula Hotels is enhancing its ongoing support of innovative public art around the world, by partnering with art museums, galleries and private collectors to enable guests to enjoy pioneering works by established masters and emerging artists.

A groundbreaking collaboration between The Peninsula Hong Kong and the UK’s most celebrated artist-led institution, the Royal Academy of Arts, which was founded in 1768, launches on Thursday 12 March 2015 with one of Britain's most renowned sculptors, Richard Wilson, timed to coincide with the third edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong from 15 to 17 March 2015. A major public art installation by leading British sculptor and Royal Academy professor, Richard Wilson, entitled “Hang On a Minute Lads… I’ve Got a Great Idea” will be on display until 8 April 2015. Teetering on the parapet of The Peninsula's 7th floor Sun Terrace, the work – a replica of a twin-axel Harrington Legionnaire coach from the classic 1969 British heist caper, *The Italian Job* – appears as if precariously balancing off the hotel's Grade I-listed heritage façade.

The Richard Wilson sculptural installation builds on 2014’s *Love Art at The Peninsula* programme of art events, which featured an animated neon installation on the façade of the hotel by British artist Tracey Emin, and a work suspended in the lobby by esteemed Chinese artist Su Xiaobai. This year’s *Love Art at The Peninsula* initiative is the first in a planned three-year partnership between The Peninsula and the Royal Academy, contributing to Hong Kong’s position within the international arts community, and the growing perception of the city as an arts hub – which counts Art Basel in Hong Kong and a new satellite fair, Art Central, which launches this year.

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**Unique art installation in Shanghai.** In Autumn 2015, The Peninsula Shanghai will unveil a new permanent art installation jointly commissioned with California-based Galerie Simard Bilodeau. The collaboration follows the hosting of a Fine Arts Exhibition in Autumn 2014, which was curated by the gallery’s proprietors, Guy Simard and Eve-Marie Bilodeau, and presented bronze sculptures and original paintings by acclaimed North American artists, including André Desjardins, Ira Reines and M.L. Snowden, a protégé of revered French master sculptor, Auguste Rodin.

**The art of hospitality in Paris.** An eclectic collection of contemporary artworks contrasts with the classical interior of this quintessential *grand hotel*. Curated by Sabrina Fung, who also created the art programmes for The Peninsula Hong Kong and The Peninsula Shanghai, the art on show ranges from an installation of 800 crystal ‘dancing leaves’ referencing the plane trees lining Avenue Kléber to the Moon River sculpture by Xavier Corberó, Spain’s foremost living sculptor, and a hanging portrait of LiLi printed on nylon webbing and net fabric woven with optical fibres.

**Art residency in Beijing.** Launched in 2013, The Peninsula Beijing’s Art Residency programme showcases some of China’s most innovative contemporary artists who live and work in a specially adapted Art Suite at the hotel. Created in partnership with the Museum of Art and Urbanity Shanghai (MAUS), the Art Residency programme is the first of its kind in a luxury hotel in China. With former participants including Zhou Yin Chao, Zhang Zhao Hui, Chen Yu and Bei Shui, exhibition of the resident artist’s works is displayed throughout the hotel, and Art Residency activities also include bespoke painting classes and art tours hosted by the live-in artist.

**Landscape art in Manila.** In 2015, The Peninsula Manila is undertaking a restoration of its collection of 20 tempera paintings by acclaimed artist Ang Kiukok, who is a recipient of the Order of National Artists in recognition of his contribution to Filipino art. The paintings were commissioned in 1977

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and depict beautiful Philippine landscapes, including the sugar cane fields of Negros Occidental and colourful *vinta* sailboats used by seafarers in Mindanao. After the restoration, the full collection will be on display in the hotel’s public areas.

**River photography in Bangkok.** Photographic art was the inspiration for the Beauty Along the Chao Phraya River photo competition that challenged professional photographers and aspiring amateurs to capture the charisma of the Thai capital’s majestic river. Initiated in partnership with the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the competition formed part of the hotel’s 15th anniversary celebrations. The winning images portrayed compelling stories of the river and the lifestyles of its people, and selected photos are exhibited in guest rooms at The Peninsula Bangkok.

**Rotating private collection in New York.** Summer 2015 will see a new selection of art on show at The Peninsula New York’s Art Exhibition, a partnership with a private collector who lends a rotating selection of contemporary artworks to exhibit at the hotel. Highlights of the current showcase are an archival print of Scarlett Johansson by Annie Leibovitz, the brilliantly coloured Needle Point Ceremony II from New York-based artist Rita Ackermann, and Old Oak, a 30-minute single wide shot of a majestic tree filmed from dusk until dawn by American video artist Bill Viola.

**An Insider’s Art Guide to Tokyo.** Tokyo’s contemporary arts scene is notoriously difficult to navigate, with the finest collections tucked away in addresses that are challenging even for locals to find. With Tokyo-born art coordinator Natane Takeda as their guide, guests can gain a better understanding of the Japanese capital’s creative trends. The Hidden Colours of Tokyo is an exclusive insider’s guide to the best galleries, museums, studios and collectors’ private spaces, plus the designer cafés and teahouses that are an integral part of Tokyo’s inimitable artistic landscape.

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**Private art tour in Chicago.** In partnership with The Art Institute of Chicago, The Peninsula Chicago offers a private tour of the museum’s revered art collection. Guests select an area of interest and the museum pairs them with a specialist curator in that particular art field. They receive a private tour and have access to the entire museum for a full day. In addition, the hotel’s upcoming guest room renovations will feature works by three artists: Jean Jacques Perrot, a local artist living in Chicago, Candice Alford, an emerging young artist from Kilrush, Ireland, and David Qian from Hong Kong.

**An Afternoon with Renoir in Beverly Hills.** During a relaxed afternoon immersed in art, guests at The Peninsula Beverly Hills may enjoy the opportunity to meet – and have a private art lesson with – artist Alexandre Renoir, great-grandson of the famous French Impressionist Pierre-Auguste Renoir. The afternoon also features a guided tour of Revolver, one of the city’s top galleries with an extensive collection of Andy Warhol art, and a private Afternoon Tea with Mr Renoir in The Living Room, to continue the conversation about art in the U.S. and the artist’s famous family.

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**About The Work**

Courtesy of the Artist and Michelle D’Souza Fine Art. Originally commissioned by the De La Warr Pavilion, UK and generously supported by Eddie Izzard, the Arts Council England Grants for the Arts via the National Lottery and the Henry Moore Foundation, as part of the London 2012 Festival.

**About Richard Wilson RA**

Born in London in 1953, Richard Wilson RA is one of Britain’s most renowned sculptors. He is internationally celebrated for his interventions in architectural space, which draw heavily from the worlds of engineering and construction.

Twice nominated for the Turner Prize (in 1988 and 1989), his most notable works include *20:50* (1987), *A Slice of Reality* (2000), *Turning the Place Over* (2007), as well as most recently installing one of the largest public sculptures on permanent display in Europe, *Slipstream* (2014), at Heathrow Airport’s newly opened Terminal Two Building.

**About the Royal Academy of Arts**

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III of England in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programmes promote the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

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The partnership with The Peninsula, builds on the RA’s recent collaborations with cultural and educational institutions across Asia. These have included exhibitions in Singapore, Japan, Qatar and Australia, an artist exchange programme in partnership with Hong Kong-based not-for-profit Arts in Heritage Research Limited and the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, and a student exchange programme with Tokyo University of the Arts. The RA has also launched an art-handling training scheme in collaboration with Art Basel Hong Kong. Prior to this, the RA launched a professional development programme for Hong Kong arts professionals in partnership with the Hong Kong government in 2012, and it has been behind a number of high-profile artist’s talks in the city over the past two years.

**About The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited (HSH)**

Incorporated in 1866 and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (00045), The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited is the holding company of a Group which is engaged in the ownership, development, and management of prestigious hotels and commercial and residential properties in key locations in Asia, the United States and Europe, as well as the provision of tourism and leisure, club management and other services. The Peninsula Hotels portfolio comprises The Peninsula Hong Kong, The Peninsula Shanghai, The Peninsula Beijing, The Peninsula Tokyo, The Peninsula Bangkok, The Peninsula Manila, The Peninsula New York, The Peninsula Chicago, The Peninsula Beverly Hills, and The Peninsula Paris. Projects under development include The Peninsula London and The Peninsula Yangon. The property portfolio of the Group includes The Repulse Bay Complex, The Peak Tower, The Peninsula Office Tower and St. John’s Building in Hong Kong; The Landmark in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; 1-5 Grosvenor Place in London, UK, and 21 avenue Kléber in Paris, France. The clubs and services portfolio of the Group includes The Peak Tram in Hong Kong; Thai Country Club in Bangkok, Thailand; Quail Lodge & Golf Club in Carmel, California; Peninsula Clubs and Consultancy Services, Peninsula Merchandising, and Tai Pan Laundry in Hong Kong.

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