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**Lantern Theater Company Presents
In Conversation: Art World Movers and Shakers
on June 20, 2016**

PHILADELPHIA (May 17, 2016) – **Lantern Theater Company** presents its final *In Conversation* event of the 2015/16 season with *Art World Movers and Shakers* on **Monday, June 20th at 7 p.m.**

In an examination of works of Asian art specific to the Lantern's production of *36 Views* by **Naomi Iizuka**, this one-night event will include a panel discussion on the ethics of trading foreign works and an insider's perspective on the secrets and surprises in the buying and selling of art. Moderated by Lantern Associate Artistic Director **Kathryn MacMillan**, the panel includes **Richard Cervantes**, Department Head for Asian Arts and Oriental Rugs & Carpets for Freeman's auction house; **Linda Chance**, Associate Chair of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania; and **Asaki Kuruma**, Artistic Consultant for *36 Views*.

In *36 Views*, a rare and valuable work of art falls into the hands of ambitious art dealer Darius Wheeler. Passion and turmoil overflow from the pages of this ancient Japanese pillow book, changing the lives of Wheeler and his colleague, the magnetic East Asian art specialist Setsuko Hearn. The mystery unfolds in a series of 36 scenes that expertly weave Eastern artistic traditions and Western theatrical conventions. *36 Views* constantly changes its point of view, revealing surprising perspectives on the worlds of art, commerce, and desire. Inspired by "36 Views of Mt. Fuji," the famous set of color woodblocks by 19th century Japanese artist Hokusai, *36 Views* echoes its namesake's shifting perspectives and asks: is there one view that can capture the totality of its object, or is it only in the collection of viewpoints and their expressions that the truth can be identified?

According to the Lantern's Associate Artistic Director Kathryn MacMillan: "*36 Views* suggests that the world of art dealing is like an adventure movie: there are romantic trysts and professional betrayals, ancient objects imbued with mystery and power—that is, until plot twists suggest that the story is more surprising than

that. The discussion will explore the real-world of art dealing, and compare its history and plot twists with those of the play. With art scholars on hand, we will also investigate the intellectual rigor it takes to trade in art works from different cultures and eras, and give audiences a deeper history of the Heian art that's at the center of *36 Views*."

The discussion will be followed by an audience Q&A and a complimentary wine and dessert reception. Discussion and reception tickets are \$15 for individuals and \$12 for Lantern subscribers, and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at (215) 829-0395. Theater critics and members of the press may reserve complimentary tickets for this event by contacting Jessica Doheny at jdoheny@lanterntheater.org or (215) 829-9002 x101. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts. in Center City Philadelphia.

About the Panelists

Richard Cervantes serves as the Department Head for Asian Arts as well as Oriental Rugs & Carpets for **Freeman's** auction house. He specializes in Chinese works of art, Chinese paintings, Japanese and Korean works of art, and Oriental rugs and carpets. A former educator, Mr. Cervantes holds a degree in Ancient History and a Master's degree in Italian. He brings a sound historical perspective to a business that often demands it and has applied a strict scholastic method to his cataloguing and research of Freeman's ever changing Asian arts and Oriental rug inventory. He personally oversaw the successful sale of contemporary Chinese paintings from the Mi Chou Gallery Collection. Mr. Cervantes is a USPAP-certified specialist who has presented at the Textile Museum in Washington DC, contributed content to *Miller's Antiques Guide* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and appeared on PBS' *Antiques Roadshow* and the History Channel's *American Pickers*.

Linda Chance earned her Ph.D. from UCLA. She is the Associate Chair of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the **University of Pennsylvania**. Her main field is prose of the medieval era, particularly the random essay form, or *zuihitsu*, which includes the pillow book. She is interested in how texts come to be read as they are, which she approaches through commentarial and reception histories, as well as genre study. The influences of Buddhist thought, gender, the various types of writing practiced in Japan, and musical modes of transmission guide her long-term research agenda. Her current project concerns literary masquerade across gender lines, and her current research agendas are history of the book, manuscripts, and printing.

Asaki Kuruma is the Artistic Consultant for the Lantern's production of *36 Views*. In addition to the Lantern, she has worked with the Curtis Opera Theatre, Arden Theatre Company, Prince Theater, and Pig Iron Theatre Company as both a stage manager and performer. She is a core ensemble member of Power Street Theatre and a

member of the **Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists** (PAPA), a collective of artists who seek to broaden the diversity of the Philadelphia theater scene. She is a native of Yokohama, Japan.

About Lantern Theater Company

Lantern Theater Company is currently producing its twenty-second season with a record number of subscribers, its largest-ever operating budget at \$1.3M, and a growing community of theater artists engaged in its productions and audience enrichment events. The company recently launched the **Lantern Theater Artist Fair Pay Initiative**, a pioneering program to increase the compensation of its contract theater artists by 50% beginning with the current season. Founded in 1994, the Lantern seeks to be a vibrant, contributing member of its community, exposing audiences to great theater, inviting participation in dialogue and discussion, engaging audience members on artistic and social issues, and employing theatrical language and techniques to enrich learning in the classroom. Since the inception of the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre in 1995, the Lantern has received 88 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service Award for its innovative education program, *Illumination*. More information is online at www.lanterntheater.org.

FACT SHEET

In Conversation: Art World Movers and Shakers

MODERATED BY:

Kathryn MacMillan

PANEL:

Richard Cervantes
Linda Chance
Asaki Kuruma

PRESS INFORMATION:

Jessica Doheny, General Manager
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TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: www.lanterntheater.org
By Phone: (215) 829-0395
In Person: Lantern Box Office, 10th & Ludlow Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19107

TICKET PRICING:

Tickets range from \$12-15

EVENT DATE AND TIME:

Monday, June 20th at 7 p.m.

EVENT VENUE:

St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19107

PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:

Ample parking is available at nearby lots and garages, including The Autopark at Jefferson (10th & Ludlow Sts.) and LAZ Parking (10th & Chestnut Sts.). Metered street parking is available during posted hours. Venue is also accessible by taxi, SEPTA buses and trains, and the PATCO Highspeed line.

EVENT SYNOPSIS:

An examination of works of Asian art specific to *36 Views*, the ethics of trading foreign works, and an insider's perspective on the secrets and surprises in the buying and selling of art. Lantern Associate Artistic Director Kathryn MacMillan will moderate a panel that includes Richard Cervantes, Department Head for Asian Arts and Oriental Rugs & Carpets for Freeman's auction house; Linda Chance, Associate Chair of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania; and Asaki Kuruma, Artistic Consultant for the Lantern's production of *36 Views*.

Conversation is followed by a complimentary wine and dessert reception in the Lantern lobby.