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FRIDA KAHLO AT THE DALLAS ART FAIR

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Chris Byrne, co-founder of The Dallas Art Fair, has announced that a controversial collection of Frida Kahlo material will be the subject of the 2010 Dallas Art Fair Symposium. The two-day event will bring together an international panel of experts to view the Noyola Fernandez Collection of approximately 1,200 drawings,

journals, letters, paintings and other items whose owners maintain are made by Frida Kahlo. Some experts on the artist's work have questioned the authenticity of the cache. The panel will present an overview of the methods and challenges of authenticating newly revealed art works. Of particular interest, in conjunction with the Dallas Art Fair symposium, a group of the disputed objects will be on view for the first time in the United States. The symposium will take place Saturday, February 6 and Sunday, February 7, 2010 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Montgomery Arts Theater at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, 2501 Flora Street in the Dallas Arts District. Admission is included in the purchase of an Art Fair ticket. Daily tickets are \$20 and a three-day pass is \$40. Doors will open at 9:30 am, seating is limited and is on a first come, first served basis. Visit www.dallasartfair.com for more information.

Approximately 20 objects from the Noyola Fernandez Collection, including paintings, drawings, journal pages and other items, will be exhibited at the symposium, and for the first time will provide experts the opportunity to examine the controversial material. The selected pieces will be displayed at Booker T. Washington's M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Foundation Art Gallery, adjacent to the Montgomery Arts Theater. A checklist provided by the Noyola Fernandez Collection is included at the end of this press release. The Dallas Art Fair Symposium panels will bring together the owners of the Noyola material, experts they have enlisted to examine the material, the publisher of a recently released book on the collection, plus scholars and art dealers who have followed the controversy since its inception. The moderator will be Jason Edward Kaufman, art historian, critic and correspondent for *The Art Newspaper*. Moderator and



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journalist Jason Kaufman says, "The discussion will range from the specific - a description of the Noyola archive - to general questions about how newly discovered artworks are received and evaluated by the scholarly community and the market." Scheduled participants include Carlos Noyola and Leticia Fernandez, co-owners of La Buhardilla Antiquarios in San Miguel de Allende and owners of the collection; Jed Paradies, advisor to the Noyola collection; Mary-Anne Martin who founded the Latin American Department at Sotheby's before starting Mary-Anne Martin/Fine Art, New York; Dr. Salomon Grimberg, co-author of the Frida Kahlo catalog raisonné, *Frida Kahlo, Das Gesamtwerk*; Jennifer Thompson, Editorial Director, and Kevin Lippert, Publisher of Princeton Architectural Press which produced the related volume *Finding Frida Kahlo*; James Oles, professor of art history at Wellesley College who has conducted extensive research in the Kahlo archives at her Casa Azul in Mexico City. **Background**

Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) is among the most popular and beloved women painters of the 20th century. Her paintings, which can command millions of dollars, describe a life of chronic physical pain and tormented love for her unfaithful husband, the painter Diego Rivera. Today she is a feminist icon, and even scraps of paper associated with her are valued not only financially but also as relics of a legendary historical figure. Her reputation is such that the Mexican government has designated her work "National Patrimony" and restricted its trade and export.

Little wonder that the Noyola collection of Frida Kahlo material has come under such intense scrutiny. Even before the works became widely known with the November 2009 release of the illustrated book *Finding Frida Kahlo* (Princeton Architectural Press), co-authored by Barbara Levine and Stephen Jaycox, the collection became the focus of numerous articles in major publications in Mexico, the United States and Europe. Some reports celebrated the discovery of new material related to Kahlo while others questioned the objects' authenticity and challenged their publication. The Dallas Art Fair Symposium will delve into the issues surrounding the collection and its still unresolved status.

About Dallas Art Fair Celebrating modern and contemporary art, the second annual 2010 Dallas Art Fair will showcase paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints and photographs from post war artists represented by over 50 prominent national and international art dealers from over 15 cities, the United Kingdom and Canada. Previous artists exhibited include Chuck Close, Joan Mitchell, Sol LeWitt, Damien Hirst, John Chamberlin and Rufino Tamayo.

The Dallas Art Fair is located at the Fashion Industry Gallery (f.i.g.), within walking distance of world-class cultural institutions of the Dallas Arts District including the Dallas Museum of Art, Nasher Sculpture Center, AT&T Performing Arts Center, the Trammell and Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art and the Meyerson Symphony Center. In its first year, over 5,500 art lovers attended and the events drew established and aspiring art collectors and enthusiasts from throughout the nation. The Dallas Art Fair was co-founded by John Sughrue and Chris Byrne.

The Presenting Sponsor for the 2010 Dallas Art Fair is Veuve Clicquot. Patron Sponsors for the event include Rosewood Hotels and Resorts, Sotheby's, Neiman Marcus, PaperCity, f.i.g. and American Visionary Art Museum. For more information, visit www.DallasArtFair.com.