



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Camille Tibaldeo
Communications Manager
P 212.246.6543
E camille@fountaingallerynyc.com

**Fountain Gallery's "Celebration of Life" Will Showcase More Than 100 Works
by Artists with Mental Illness**

New York Real Estate and Arts Leaders Join Forces for Eighth Annual Benefit

New York, NY – October 28, 2009 – Fountain Gallery, the premier venue in New York City representing artists with mental illness, today announced its Eighth Annual Celebration of Life, a remarkable collaboration of the commercial real estate industry and the New York arts community with Fountain Gallery, to benefit its member-artists. The event will take place on November 9, 2009, at Citi Executive Conference Center, 601 Lexington Avenue, 14th floor (between 53rd and 54th Streets), from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., where more than 100 original artworks by Gallery artists will be displayed for sale. Agnes Gund, President Emerita of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) will be a Special Guest. Ms. Gund has curated the current Fountain Gallery group exhibition, "Is White A Color?"

"When this benefit was founded in 2000 by Dario Gristina, CEO of Genergy, many prominent members of the New York commercial real estate and related industries generously came on board at once," said Jason Bowman, Director of Fountain Gallery. "They have been with us every step of the way and have continued to attract new supporters," continued Bowman. "It is gratifying that this year we also have the participation of leaders of the city's arts community, which is of great importance to the Gallery and our member-artists," concluded Bowman.

The Esther Montanez Leadership Award will be presented in honor of the memory of the woman who was a driving force in the founding of Fountain Gallery and a tireless advocate for people with mental illness throughout her long career as Director of Special Projects for Fountain House, the Gallery's parent organization, until her death in 2006.

MORE

The 2009 recipients of the Esther Montanez Leadership Award are: The Honorable Charles B. Rangel, Member of Congress, and Alma Rangel, Vice-Chair, New York Foundation for Senior Citizens; The Honorable Christine C. Quinn, Speaker, NYC Council; Elizabeth Szancer Kujawski, Art Advisor and Curator, The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.; and Suzanne Lemakis, Director, Department of Fine Art, Citi.

Co-Chairs of this year's event are: Peter L. DiCapua, Matt Duthie, Rick Froio, Carmel W. Fromson, Leslie Harwood, John McGinley, Lynn Nicholas, PsyD, Richard D. Parsons, Bruce C. Ratner, Betsy Seidman, Andrew Stenzler, and Henry P. van Ameringen. Founding Chair: Dario Gristina. Ms. Harwood and Messrs. DiCapua, McGinley, and Stenzler are past recipients of the Esther Montanez Leadership Award.

For the second year, the husband and wife team of Sasha Nicholas and Steven Caputo, both longtime Fountain Gallery volunteers, are curators of the Celebration of Life art exhibition. Ms. Nicholas is Senior Curatorial Assistant at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Mr. Caputo is a Fellow of the Design Trust for Public Space.

Ticket price is \$275. For tickets and information, please contact Robyn Marks at 212.582.0341, ext. 1288, or rmarks@fountainhouse.org.

About Fountain Gallery

Fountain Gallery is the premier venue in New York City representing artists with mental illness. Founded in 2000 as a not-for-profit cooperative, the Gallery exhibits work by a core group of Fountain House members and collaborates with a wide network of artists, curators, and cultural institutions, providing a platform for exchange and public dialogue. Embracing artists who are both emerging and established, trained and self-taught, Fountain Gallery cultivates artistic growth and makes a vital contribution to the New York arts community.

Artworks by Gallery artists can be viewed at: www.fountaingallerynyc.com.
For more information about Fountain House: www.fountainhouse.org.

Fountain Gallery
702 Ninth Avenue at 48th Street
New York City 10019
212.262.2756
Hours: Tues-Sat 11-7; Sun 1-5

###