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## **TANG CONTEMPORARY ART Opening its New Space in Hong Kong Launching Ai Weiwei's Solo Exhibition "Wooden Ball"**

**(Hong Kong, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015)** Tang Contemporary Art ("Tang") today announced the opening of its new space in Hong Kong. To commemorate the establishment of Tang Contemporary Art in Hong Kong ("Tang Hong Kong"), Tang Hong Kong launched Ai Weiwei's first Hong Kong solo exhibition "Wooden Ball" as its inaugural exhibition. This was Ai Weiwei's second cooperation with Tang Hong Kong after his recent exhibition in Beijing. The exhibition is curated by Cui Cancan and it goes until November 15.

Tang Contemporary Art was established at Thailand Bangkok in 1997 and stationed at Beijing 798 Art Zone in 2006. After nearly two decades of development and set up of Tang's headquarter in Beijing, Tang Contemporary Art has become an important platform in Bangkok, Beijing and Hong Kong to promote Chinese contemporary art.

Mr. Zheng Lin, the Founder of Tang Contemporary Art, said: "Ai Weiwei's large-scale solo exhibition opened on September 19 in London Royal Academy of Arts presented most of his important works from the time he returned to China in 1993 right up to present day. The exhibition was a cultural phenomenon which generated unprecedented attention. As the inaugural exhibition of 'Tang Hong Kong', we hope that 'Wooden Ball' can allow more audience to experience the glamour of the internationally well-received artist, and at the same time constitute a new chapter for Tang Contemporary Art's new space in Hong Kong."

"Wooden Ball" is part of the work of Ai Weiwei's "Divina Proportione". Created in 2004, the series has 9 different sizes and materials, including rosewood, stain and copper, etc. Prior to the creation of the series, Ai Weiwei produced artworks transformed from traditional Chinese architecture and furniture, such as the representative work "Map of China", "Fragment", and the recent work "Wang Family Ancestral Hall" and so on.

The idea of Ai Weiwei's "Wooden Ball" originated from a plastic ball toy belonging to his cat in his workshop. Each of these abstract-and-simple-looking wooden balls is enlarged in the Chinese traditional furniture's way of production and constructed by the complex intricate joining methods. Each wooden ball took one year time in making, which was spent in exploring the ideal relationship of each component structure to demonstrate the perfect relationship between its shape and ratio, structure and texture. The artworks are made and constructed in an organized way, combining the classic geometric pattern together with Chinese traditional furniture craftsmanship. Reforming their physical pattern, Ai Weiwei has granted the wooden

balls with the attribute and meaning of ambiguity and weirdness to present a fleeting and uncertain sense.

The exhibition features 17 Wooden Balls which are in polyhedron shape and made out of rosewood. Each sphere possesses 32 sides and is composed of 12 pentagons and 20 hexagons. 16 small balls with 68cm in diameter were created in 2011. The remaining large wooden ball with 130cm in diameter was created in 2007. The unframed object and the 16 small balls formed an intricate relationship of their own, creating a complimenting correlation among them. The creation process of Wooden Ball actually represents a changing process of a reference system: it turns from a contemporary form of a pet's toy to the rigorous beautifying traditional Chinese craftsmanship, and finally to the realization of Wooden Ball. Its craftsmanship, representation and execution method comprise a variety of unknown and challenges; at the same time, it has evolved to a brand new existence because of the blending of different methods, materials, functions and locations which occurred during the process. The identity of Wooden Ball becomes ambiguous between the distance of reality and history, and it can only exist in possibility.

Curator Mr. Cui Cancan said: "The transformation of the Wooden Ball is a metaphoric representation of the historical changes we experience in our society. It is also consistent with Ai Weiwei's interest: 'Where does our knowledge come from? What is the relationship between our beliefs, right and wrong, truth and false? How should we perceive a concept when it has experienced changes and produced something new? For me, these questions are meaningful as they depict the emergence of disappearance of aesthetics possibility, as well as the judgments of the possibility and transformation of ideology (if our ideology is really possible to transform). I have interest in these issues, namely, the possibility of a change in an original concept."

Tang Contemporary Art cooperated with Ai Weiwei in a joint exhibition of Ai Weiwei, An Di, Shu Yong and Zhao Bandi curated by Shu Yong in 2008. In June 2015, Tang Contemporary Art and Gallery Continua presented Ai Weiwei's solo exhibition, which was his first-ever large-scale solo exhibition organised in China after returning to China from New York for 22 years. The exhibition once again showcased Ai Weiwei's artworks and triggered an enthusiastic discussion from the world wide art lovers and major journalists.

<b>Ai Weiwei: Wooden Ball</b>	
<b>Exhibition Date</b>	3 October to 15 November 2015
<b>Opening Hour</b>	Every Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 7pm
<b>Venue</b>	Tang Contemporary Art 19/F, On Lan Street, Central, Hong Kong
<b>Enquiry</b>	Tel : +852 2682 8289 Email : <a href="mailto:hk@tangcontemporary.com">hk@tangcontemporary.com</a> Website : <a href="http://www.tangcontemporary.com">www.tangcontemporary.com</a>
<b>Admission</b>	Free. No appointment is required

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### **About Tang Contemporary Art**

Tang Contemporary Art has organized over 200 exhibitions and projects in its spaces of Beijing, Bangkok and Hong Kong, and other major art museums and art institutions within and beyond China. With the successful experience, Tang Contemporary Art has gradually established the most avant-garde and experimental brand image and impact of the art industry. Besides, Tang Contemporary Art has strongly promoted a group of artists who have academic influence and commercial value, and thus created a ground-breaking prospect for Chinese contemporary art. Tang Contemporary Art has been the agent of almost 50 outstanding Chinese contemporary artists, including Ai Weiwei, Huang Yongping, Shen Yuan, Wang Yin, Xia Xiaowan, Wang Du, Yan Lei, Zheng Guogu, He An, Xu Qu, etc; and also established a close cooperation with the reputable international artists, such as Rirkrit Tiravanija, Navin Rawanchaikul, etc. Dedicating to the presentation of more wonderful exhibitions and the updated system of artists and collectors under a global vision, Tang Contemporary Art becomes an influential platform for the development of the international contemporary art.

This media invitation is released by Mention PR Consultants Ltd. on behalf of Tang Contemporary Art. For media enquiries please contact Mention PR Consultants Ltd.

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