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Contact: Rose Rougeau
Senior Director of Communication & Audience Engagement
RRougeau@AsiaSociety.org | 713.208.1045

Yuriko Yamaguchi's Web-Like Sculptures to Transform Asia Society Texas Center's Grand Hall

Asia Society Texas Center is pleased to present a new exhibition of large-scale, mixed-media sculptures by Japanese artist **Yuriko Yamaguchi**. The self-titled exhibition opens to the public April 23, 2016.

"Yamaguchi's works, with their organic presence and compelling dynamism, challenge us to connect with our environments in fresh ways," says **Bridget Bray**, the Center's Nancy C. Allen Curator and Director of Exhibitions.

The artist's sculptures feature fragments of hand-cast resins, wire, and LED light, suspended in space and seemingly growing from the building. The artist's web-like structures are not made by following a particular process; rather, each sculpture represents a series of adaptations and choices, growing naturally and spontaneously, much like a living organism does. Yamaguchi has previously explained that the purpose of her works is to "remind people that we are all connected in many overlapping webs woven out of the common forces that affect the human condition: family origin, economic stressors, religious beliefs, nature, time, place, and technology." Through her works, she seeks to explore the constantly changing but ever-present hidden connections that bind the human experience to the natural world.

Her *Cloud* series in particular, speaks to the intersection of digital networks and art. "Once we get into the cloud, we become surrounded by humid air and find nothing," says Yamaguchi. Both her art and the digital cloud are seen as "artificial" and "able to multiply endlessly."

Yamaguchi's abstract sculptures resonate uniquely in the spaces in which they are installed, and for her exhibition at Asia Society, she will create an original work for the Center's Faye Sarofim Grand Hall called *Weaving Time*. "Architect Yoshio Taniguchi's vision of the Faye Sarofim Grand Hall is the ideal 'palette' for Yamaguchi to use," elaborates Bray. "Her spontaneous responses to architectural structures introduce a tension between the built environment and our lived

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1370 Southmore Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77004
Phone 713.496.9901 Fax: 713.496.9989
www.asiasociety.org/texas

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experience of such spaces, emphasizing movement, color, and the play of light, which alters as the day progresses.”

The exhibition will be on view through August 21, 2016 and admission is free and open to the public. Asia Society Texas Center, located at 1370 Southmore Blvd, Houston, Texas, is open Tuesday – Friday, 11 am – 6 pm, and Saturday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm.

About the Artist

Born in Osaka, Japan in 1948, Yuriko Yamaguchi moved to the United States in the early 1970s and received her BA from the University of California, Berkeley. After studying at Princeton University, she was awarded an MFA at the University of Maryland, College Park. Yamaguchi's work has previously been shown at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Fowler Museum at UCLA, the Field Museum in Chicago, The Kanagawa Museum of Modern Art in Japan, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, among others. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including most recently the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Artist Residency award, the Joan Mitchell Foundation award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters award. Yamaguchi lives and works in the Washington, DC area.

About Asia Society Texas Center

With 12 locations throughout the world, Asia Society is the leading educational organization promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among the peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States. Asia Society Texas Center executes the global mission with a local focus, enriching and engaging the vast diversity of Houston through innovative, relevant programs in arts and culture, business and policy, education, and community outreach.

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