



32-37 Vernon Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11106
www.noguchi.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2017

Media Contacts

Lucy O'Brien lucyobrien.comm@gmail.com | 646.590.9267

Stephanie Markovic smarkovic.comm@gmail.com | 347.628.4688

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

**2017 Isamu Noguchi Award Goes To Architectural Designer
John Pawson And Painter Hiroshi Senju**

Award to be presented at Noguchi Museum Annual Benefit, May 16, 2017.

WHAT

The **Noguchi Museum** has selected **John Pawson** and **Hiroshi Senju** as recipients of the 2017 **Isamu Noguchi Award**, given to individuals who share Noguchi's spirit of innovation, global consciousness, and commitment to East/West cultural exchange.

WHO

John Pawson is an internationally acclaimed architectural designer based in London. His global travels have included four years in Japan, with time spent in the studio of designer Shiro Kuramata. Today, with projects that encompass buildings—from private houses to commercial showrooms, as well as art spaces, stage sets, a monastery, and yachts—Pawson's work continues to grow out of the expressions of simplicity that have formed a consistent component of both Eastern and Western traditions, from Japanese concepts of Zen to Cistercian monastic architecture. In 2016 he completed his first major public project, the interior remodeling of the former Commonwealth Institute building in London, an iconic example of post-war British Modernism, now the new permanent home of the Design Museum in London.

Japanese-born painter **Hiroshi Senju** is noted worldwide for sublime, frequently monumental images of waterfalls and cliffs that combine a minimalist visual language that is rooted in Abstract Expressionism with ancient Japanese painting techniques. He is one of a handful of contemporary masters of the 1,000-year-old *nihonga* style of painting, using pigments made of minerals, ground stone, shell, and corals suspended in glue made of animal hide. Senju creates his waterfalls by pouring paint onto mulberry paper on board, conjuring not only the appearance of rushing water, but also its sound, smell, and feel. Senju was the first Asian artist to receive an Honorable Mention Award at the Venice Biennale (1995). His work is included in numerous international collections, including the

Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum, in New York City; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan; The Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan; and the Yamatane Museum of Art, Tokyo, among others.

WHEN The Award will be presented at **the Museum’s annual benefit, on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.**

WHERE The Noguchi Museum
9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard)
Long Island City, New York

NOGUCHI MUSEUM Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Widely viewed as among the artist’s greatest achievements, the Museum comprises ten indoor galleries in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to housing the artist’s archives and the catalogue raisonné of his work, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative, frequently-changing installations drawn from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi, the context in which he worked, and his ongoing artistic relevance, offer a rich view of Noguchi’s art and illuminate his enduring influence as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator. **www.noguchi.org / [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)**

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS Previous recipients of the Isamu Noguchi Award include: 2014—Lord Norman Foster and Hiroshi Sugimoto; 2015—Jasper Morrison and Yoshio Taniguchi; 2016—Tadao Ando and Elyn Zimmerman.

* * *