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WHAT: Wally Findlay Galleries hosts *The Folding Image*, a collection of paneled screen paintings.

WHO: James R. Borynack, Wally Findlay Galleries Palm Beach

WHERE: 165 Worth Avenue, Palm Beach

WHEN: January 2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Screens, whether formed of single panels, sliding doors, or folding panels, have been known for centuries.

The earliest surviving folding screens date from 8th century China, although references indicate they existed as early as the 4th century BC. The heavy wooden panels served as partitions, and were often painted with scenes of palace life, stories from mythology or images of nature, contained within the individual vertical panels.

When the screens reached Japan, they became more versatile and lighter in weight, and designs began extending across the panels, no longer limited by borders.

Traders returning from the East introduced them to Europe as early as the 16th century, and by the 19th century oriental screens were well-known throughout Europe, and were displayed at the 1897 International Exhibition for Industry and Art in Paris. Recognizing their appeal, contemporary artists began to create their own beautifully designed screens as works of art, and with the revival of interest in the decorative arts during this period, screens became a necessary feature of any well-designed interior.

Today, screens are not only fascinating works of art, but continue to act as integral components of interior design in homes and apartments. They can create false walls to change the appearance of large spaces or add atmosphere to smaller ones, conceal less attractive interior features, or simply adorn a wall. The personality of a screen is limitless - it can open a window on a fanciful world, portray a sweeping emotional landscape, contain flights of fantasy or whimsy, or merely display a beautiful design. The possibilities are defined only by the artist's imagination.

The current exhibition at Wally Findlay Galleries, *The Folding Image: Paneled Screen Paintings* encompasses some of the finest modern examples from all these worlds.

Paravent (c.1940) by Spanish artist Lorenzo Victoriano Aguirre Sanchez, well known as a set designer, and poster artist, is an appealing and powerful depiction of three small tables that could find their place in any home. His strong blocks of earthy color create a welcoming image. In contrast, Max Ernst's *Le Grand Ignorant* presents a whimsical look at humanity. Poucette's fanciful depiction of heroic knights on charging steeds, and likely herself as the beautiful (and naked) princess in the howdah atop a beautifully appointed elephant, harks back to ancient mythologies, whereas Mary Sipp Green's hypnotic, atmospheric *Lavender in Revest-du-Bion, Provence*, relies solely on her depth of color to create emotion and allows the viewer to delve deeply into their own memories to populate the scene. Gustavo Novoa welcomes us into the magical lushness of his jungles, while others including Charles Neal, Hugo Grenville and Isabelle de Ganay offer landscapes abundant with the beauty of nature. The bright colors and tense brushstrokes of Priscilla Heine's *Life's Machine* evoke the primal power of the life force, and Ervin Van Muriel's fascinatingly beautiful portrait seems to ask us to question the nature of reality.

EST. 1870

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THE FOLDING
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PANELED SCREEN PAINTINGS

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ABOUT WALLY FINDLAY:

Over our 145-year history, Wally Findlay Galleries has proudly represented many superb artists embodying various schools of art throughout time. William Wadsworth Findlay established the first gallery location in Kansas City, Missouri in 1870. The presidency of the gallery was passed on to William's eldest son, Walstein C. Findlay Sr. and later to Walstein C. Findlay Jr. (Wally). Under Wally's presidency the gallery thrived, becoming a well-known cultural destination and opening new locations in Chicago (1931), Palm Beach (1961), New York City (1964), Paris and Beverly Hills (1971). Today, the tradition of commitment to excellence in the fine arts is continued by the company's Chairman and CEO, James R. Borynack, who acquired the company in late 1998.

Over the years, Wally Findlay Galleries has showcased many different genres, from the Impressionists in the 1870s, to Fauvism in the early-twentieth century. Today, the gallery represents a group of distinguished contemporary artists, both European and American. By practicing the highest standards in our relationship with both the artist and the collector, the gallery upholds its mission to promote and provide quality works by great artistic talents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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