



29<sup>th</sup> January - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Sotheby's London  
34-35 New Bond St.

Francesco Clemente  
Bernard Frize  
Gary Hume  
Reena Saini Kallat  
Anish Kapoor  
Maya Lin  
Harland Miller  
Raqib Shaw  
Kiki Smith  
Rose Wylie



Raqib Shaw, Ode to the Tigers of Bandhavgarh (detail) Finished rug, 200x100cm approx. Hand-knotted rug in silk and wool.  
Image Courtesy, Raqib Shaw and White Cube

*Tomorrow's Tigers* is a major new fundraising project devised and curated by Artwise, featuring specially commissioned, limited edition art rugs by 10 internationally renowned artists. The project has been created to raise awareness and funds in support of the TX2 goal - **a global commitment to double tiger numbers in the wild by 2022**. The rugs will be on show and available to purchase from a selling exhibition at Sotheby's, London from 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and from [www.wwf.org.uk/tomorrowstigers](http://www.wwf.org.uk/tomorrowstigers)

Taking inspiration from the fabled Tibetan tiger rug and the splendour of tigers in the wild, each artist has approached the project with their own vision of what a tiger rug could be, as well as an individual response to the plight of tigers in the wild. For **Raqib Shaw**, this took the form of a memory, movingly conveyed by the howl of the lone tiger at the heart of his rug. He recalls, "*as a young man one of my favourite places to visit was Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh, India - home to an incredible array of wildlife which, aside from the tiger, also includes sloth bear, leopard and spotted deer. The threat to biodiversity on planet Earth is of great concern and the tiger's tragic decline is one I couldn't ignore.*"

Created by rug-specialists, Christopher Farr and their team of master craftsmen, each rug is unique - just like the exquisite original artist designs. Created by hand in the hills of Northern India, with specialist hand dyeing and the finest wools and silks, these spectacular rugs push the boundaries of the art-form to meet the vision of each participating artist. For Shaw's rug this included a custom-made combination of silk and wool, the highest knot count possible and a gorgeous graduated dyed effect to convey the artist's highly detailed, jewelled and painterly technique.

These stunning contemporary rugs will be shown in conjunction with a selection of rare woven antique Tiger Rugs, comprising 9 of the 164 still known to exist. These iconic rugs were created in Tibet in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as an act of veneration and convey some of the awe and wonder we experience on encountering the splendour of the wild tiger. Traditionally the Tiger Rugs were made as gifts for monks, known as lamas, in their monasteries; the Tiger skin motif was thought to protect the person during meditation. Like their new counterparts, the rugs range from the broadly abstract to the more clearly descriptive - all paying homage to the sublime beauty of the tiger.

At the beginning of the 20th century, experts suggest there may have been 100,000 tigers in the wild. Today, the global population has shrunk by over 95 per cent, with approximately 3,900 tigers remaining in the wild. This is the shocking legacy of threats including rampant poaching and habitat loss which, if not tackled, could mean tigers would head towards extinction. WWF has been at the forefront of TX2 - driving ambitious and innovative conservation efforts that aim to turn back the decline and double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022: the next Chinese 'Year of the Tiger'.

The rugs are each made in a limited edition of 10 and will retail at prices ranging from £10,000 to £25,000. Profits will go towards supporting tiger conservation in the 13 tiger range countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Heather Sohl, Interim Tigers Alive Leader for WWF, said *'WWF is part of a major global driving force bringing about a powerful change in the approach to tiger conservation, which is showing promising results. 'Tomorrow's Tigers', as part of our global campaign to double the number of tigers in the wild, can help ensure that we achieve this aim - a goal we hope everyone will join us to support.'*

For the first time in a century, the global number of tigers in the wild has stopped declining and may even be on the rise. Success achieved in South Asia and Far East Russia are an exemplar of what can be achieved with a combination of sustained funding and political commitment. In Nepal, with the aid of innovative conservation tools and approaches, wild tiger numbers have almost doubled in less than a decade. Recent studies even conclude that selected tiger sites across Asia have the potential to triple, given optimal conditions.

These heartening gains provide a beacon of hope and proof that the aims of TX2 are within reach. WWF invites you to support **Tomorrow's Tigers** in their goal of generating £1 million from the sale of these stunning and highly collectable art rugs to sustain this vital conservation work.

.... Ends ....

## **Tomorrow's Tigers**

29 January - 4 February 2019

Sotheby's London

34-35 New Bond Street

London W1S 2RT

UK

Follow the project: [www.wwf.org.uk/tomorrowstigers](http://www.wwf.org.uk/tomorrowstigers)

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### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### How To buy?

The rugs will be available to buy [www.wwf.org.uk/tomorrowstigers](http://www.wwf.org.uk/tomorrowstigers)

For more information please contact: [laura@artwisecurators.com](mailto:laura@artwisecurators.com)



WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with over five million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. Visit <https://wwf.org.uk> for latest news and media resources and follow us on Twitter @wwf\_uk.

## Artwise

Founded in 1996, Artwise is a curatorial collective based in London, run by Susie Allen and Laura Culpan, that specialises in curating and producing public art commissions, museum and gallery exhibitions, and innovative art projects for charities such as CPT, WWF and the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). Artwise projects have been exhibited in many inspiring spaces, such as Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg; Groninger Museum; Centraal Museum, Utrecht; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; The Whitechapel Gallery, and Design Museum in London. Artwise was commissioned to curate the international exhibition for the official Pavilion of Azerbaijan at the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015. [www.artwisecurators.com](http://www.artwisecurators.com)

## Christopher Farr

Established in 1988, Christopher Farr has been at the spearhead of contemporary rug design for thirty years. Together with his business partner Matthew Bourne, they were the catalyst that revolutionised the contemporary rug market. With backgrounds that are firmly rooted in antique Oriental carpets and textiles, Farr and Bourne share a passionate knowledge of contemporary art and design that informs the work that is produced to this day.

Over the past 30 years Christopher Farr has collaborated with leading artists and designers from across the globe, including Gary Hume, Sarah Morris and John Pawson. They will continue to seek out further exciting projects that challenge their medium whilst also respecting the history and traditions of the craft.

## Sotheby's EST. 1744

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Every year, Sotheby's auctioneers offer their services for charity auctions across the world, with more than £100 million raised with the help of Sotheby's London team since 2012 alone. Sotheby's has previously sold Contemporary works benefitting charities including (Red), Whitechapel, NSPCC, Serpentine Gallery, Parasol Unit, Human Rights Watch, Peer Gallery, The Legacy List, ICA and Artists for Artangel.