**JAPANESE ARTIST MARIKO MORI INSTALLS MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE**

**AT THE TOP OF A WATERFALL IN MANGARATIBA, OUTSIDE OF RIO**

***The acrylic ring weighs two tons and will be installed at a height of 58 meters and***

***has the backing of Celebra – Cultural Program of the Olympic and Paralympic Games***

FOR HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS: WWW.CANIVELLO.COM.BR

Internationally renowned for combining Science, technology and nature in her works, Japanese artist **Mariko Mori** has set herself a challenge: to connect the world’s six continents through art by installing a large-scale permanent work in each one of them. Following the installation of the monumental ***Sun Pillar*** sculpture on Miyako Island in Japan, in 2011, she chose Rio de Janeiro as the setting for the second stage of her groundbreaking project. On August 2nd, in a ceremony only for guests,she inaugurates ***Ring: One With Nature***, a giant, luminous floating ring made of acrylic, with diameter of 3 meters and weighing two tons, set at a height of 58 meters at the top of the ***Véu da Noiva*** (Bride’s Veil) waterfall, in Muriqui (Mangaratiba). The work received the backing of **Celebra** **– Cultural Program of the** **Olympic and Paralympic Games of Rio 2016** and is presented by the **Faou Foundation** in New York. The unveiling ceremony is scheduled for 1:00 pm and includes a performance by singer **Virginia Rodrigues**, from Bahia. On the following day, the site will be open to the general public.

**Mariko Mori** has lived in New York since 1992, where she studied art at the **Whitney Museum’s** independent study program, and before that, she graduated from the **Chelsea College of Art & Design**, in London. Her works have gained international recognition since the 1990s, when she began producing videos and large-scale photographs, in which she was often the protagonist of narratives about futuristic and fantastical subjects, inspired by the Buddhist concept that all things in the universe are connected. She is currently the contemporary Japanese artist with greatest visibility in the west, with highly successful shows and works acquired by the collections of such important institutions as **MoMA** and the **Guggenheim**, in New York and the **Georges Pompidou Center**, in Paris.

In Brazil she has been known since 2002, when she took part in the **São Paulo Biennial**. Her first individual exhibition was in 2011, with ***Oneness*** at the Banco do Brasil Cultural Centers (**CCBB)** in Brasília, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. In Rio alone, there were over 500 thousand visitors to the exhibition during a two-month period, gaining her first place in the contemporary art show visitor rankings worldwide.

***Ring*** is **Mariko Mori**’s second most ambitious work, made possible by the **Faou** **Foundation**, an institution created by the artist with the mission of endowing the world with site-specific works in unique ecological setting, in order to promote environmental awareness. The first projectwas the ***Sun Pillar*** sculpture, at Seven Light Bay on Miyako Island in Japan, part of the ***Primal Rhythm*** project, which will also have a second work, ***Moon Stone***, scheduled for 2020.

The enormous acrylic ring will change color, ranging from blue to golden depending on the angle of sunlight and will be attached at the top of the waterfall by two steel rods, positioned at the back of the work and painted green gray so as to blend in with the local vegetation. During the winter solstice, the ring will align with the sun.

***Ring*** is a symbol of union between humanity and nature, inspiring environmental awareness through art. Due to this representation, the work received the backing of **Celebra – Cultural Program of the Rio 2016 Games. *Ring*** gained the necessary funding thanks to **Nissan**, official sponsor of the **Games**. “The ring evokes unity, eternity and completeness. It is a real privilege to present this work at a moment of international unity, which the **Olympic Games** represent” enthuses the artist, who is already in Rio to command the challenging operation of installing the work.

***Ring’s*** creation has had additional support from **John S. Wadsworth Jr.**, from the **Rosenkranz Foundation**, from **The Hayden Family Foundation,** from **Wilbur L. Ross, Jr**., from **Japan House**, and the **Municipality of Mangaratiba.**

**The work** will be gifted by Faou Foundation to INEA (the State Institute of the Environment of Brazil) and to the State of Rio de Janeiro.

For more information about the **Faou Foundation**, the artist, or for more details about ***Ring: One With Nature***, visit <http://faoufoundation.org>

For information on **Celebra – Cultural Program of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Rio 2016** : <http://www.rio2016.com/culture>.

***MARIKO MORI***

**Mariko Mori** is widely considered one of the most important artists to have emerged from Japan in the last 50 years. There have been individual shows of **Mori’s** work in major institutions worldwide, including the **Royal Academy of Arts** and the **Serpentine Gallery**, in London, UK; **Centre Georges Pompidou**, Paris, France; **Tokyo Museum of Contemporary Art** and **Éspace Louis Vuitton**, in Tokyo, Japan; **Prada Foundation**, in Milan, Italy; **Los Angeles County Museum of Art**, Los Angeles, USA; **Museum of Contemporary Art**, Chicago, USA; **Brooklyn Museum of Art**, New York, USA; **Art Gallery of Western Australia**, Perth; **Kunsthaus Bregenz**, Bregenz, Austria; **Aros Aarhus Kunstmuseum**, Aarhus, Denmark, and **Groninger Museum**, Groningen, Holland.

Her work has been acquired for the collections of the **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum** and the **Museum of Modern Art** in New York; **Centre Georges Pompidou**, Paris; **Fondation Louis Vuitton**, Paris; **Prada Foundation**, Milan; **Los Angeles County Museum of Art**, Los Angeles; **Museum of Contemporary Art**, Chicago; **Museum of Israel**, in Jerusalem and the **Pinchuk Arts Centre**, Kiev.

**Mori’s** work has also been shown in the major biennials worldwide, such as Venice, Istanbul, Sydney, Shanghai, São Paulo and Singapore. In 2013, the ***Teatro La Fenice*** in Venice in partnership with the **Venice Biennial** invited **Mori** to design the costumes and sets for a production of the opera ***Madame Butterfly***.

**Mariko Mori** created the **Faou Foundation** in 2011. She is represented by **Sean Kelly**, in New York, and by **SCAI Bathhouse**, in Tokyo.

***FAOU FOUNDATION***

The **Faou Foundation** is a non-profit organization created in 2010 by the artist **Mariko Mori** with a mission to gifting monumental art installations as a means of raising environmental awareness around the world with the installation of site-specific works in unique ecological settings in each of the world’s six habitable continents. Each work of art becomes a symbol of awareness, education and gratitude for the protection of the diversity of the planet’s ecosystems and natural resources. **Faou** aims to inspire the ethos “One with Nature”. http://faoufoundation.org/

**PRESS INFORMATION:**

**CANIVELLO COMUNICAÇÃO**

**Leila Grimming –** [**leila.grimming@canivello.com.br**](mailto:leila.grimming@canivello.com.br) **/ cel (21) 98112.3390**

**Mario Canivello –** [**mario@canivello.com.br**](mailto:mario@canivello.com.br) **/ cel (21) 99972.6572**

**SUTTON PR**

**Concetta Duncan, Assistant Vice President; Tel: +1 212-202-3402,**

[**concetta@suttonpr.com**](mailto:concetta@suttonpr.com)**.**

**Tags: @FAOUFoundation** [**@MarikoMori**](https://www.instagram.com/MarikoMori/)**#MarikoMoriRing #FAOUFndRing #WeAreOneness**

