

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The St. Regis San Francisco Integrates

Three Remarkable Pieces of Public Art into Building Design

Commissioned Art Complements Cultural Attractions in the Yerba Buena Neighborhood

SAN FRANCISCO (November 1, 2005) -- The St. Regis San Francisco has commissioned renowned artists Masayuki Nagase, Raymond Saunders and Hirotoshi Sawada to create public art installments, which are integrated into the design of the magnificent new structure, neighbor to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The three works, which were commissioned with the directive to “enrich the public landscape and express the vitality of San Francisco,” include Nagase’s Minna Street Fountain, located at the entrance of the hotel; Saunders’ glass mural on the façade of the historic Williams Building, which has been renovated and incorporated into the hotel design; and Sawada’s mobile, which is suspended over the St. Regis Residences *porte cochere*.

Located at Third and Mission streets, The St. Regis San Francisco serves as the crowning jewel of the Yerba Buena neighborhood, adding the final flourish to the emergence of the area as a vibrant new center of gracious urban living with the 40-story architectural landmark by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Steps from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the hotel is across from the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and will house the new Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in a portion of the rehabilitated Williams Building, a turn-of-the-century historical structure at Third and Mission.

“St. Regis has been viewed from the first as a work of art, sparing no expense from initial design concepts to the finished masterpiece,” said Elias Assaly, general manager of The St. Regis San Francisco. “Given our location in the heart of San Francisco’s vibrant cultural neighborhood and the excellence of our interior design and architecture, it is fitting to have such striking pieces of art on display for our guests, residents and the City of San Francisco to enjoy.”

Minna Street Fountain

The design concept for the Minna Street Fountain is based on traditional Asian folding screens called Byôbu, which create a division of space by the suggestion of movement. Using Byôbu as inspiration, Berkeley based artist Masayuki Nagase designed the fountain with six marble columns, carved from Danby white marble quarried in Vermont, placed within shifting angles in a 40-foot trapezoid-shaped pool. The columns, measuring six-and-a-half feet in height, 15 to 20 inches in width, and 15 inches in depth, gradually increase in volume from the east to the west end of the fountain. The surface of each column is carved in relief with wave patterns, representing San Francisco's proximity to the Pacific Ocean and its historical and contemporary connection to maritime activities and events.

As visitors exit the Hotel lobby, the marble columns provide an elegant counterpoint to the red brick façade of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. A water source at the top of each column allows water to run gently down all four sides, creating a soft, soothing sound as it flows down the columns and into the basin. Custom designed lighting enhances the columns' carved surfaces and accentuates the gentle motion of the water. Given its prominent location, the fountain is a dynamic landmark for both The St. Regis and for the neighboring Yerba Buena Arts District.

Williams Building Mural

The southeast façade of the historic Williams Building has been enhanced with an art glass transcription of a work on canvas by Oakland artist Raymond Saunders. An internationally acclaimed artist, Saunders is known for mixed-media paintings that are layered with fragmentary impressions and imbued with whimsy or satire.

The re-creation in glass of Saunders' painting graces the Williams Building façade with a vibrant and striking work of art. Measuring 36'x36', the artwork is visible along the Third Street corridor. The painting's bold colors, abstract forms and strong composition celebrate its prestigious location in the Yerba Buena Arts District and its proximity to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

The method of transcribing the painting into glass involved numerous techniques, including fusing, etching, painting and casting. A variety of colored and optical glasses,

including dichroic glass, were laminated onto the panels and project a vibrant kaleidoscope of colors during the day. At night the artwork appears as a jewel in the night sky, a welcoming beacon in the San Francisco's world-renowned skyline.

St. Regis Residences Porte Cochere mobile, "YIN"

Japanese artist Hirotoishi Sawada captures the interplay of yin and yang by bringing his bold yet minimalist installation into dynamic relief against the powerful, linear architecture of the St. Regis' contemporary architecture, suggesting the harmony of the organic and material worlds. YIN, Sawada's installation, enervates a black iron and stainless steel mobile through suspension and light, casting shadows against the back wall of the porte cochere. The illusion is one of birds in flight, migrating in search of destination and arriving at their seasonal home. Sawada's installation provides a metaphysical connection from the east to the west, situating San Francisco's St. Regis Hotel & Residences as an inspired gateway to the Pacific.

About St. Regis Hotels & Resorts

St. Regis Hotels & Resorts includes the most celebrated properties in the world. Founded by John Jacob Astor with landmark The St. Regis New York over a century ago, the company will unveil highly anticipated St. Regis properties in San Francisco (November 2005), Bora Bora, French Polynesia (2006) Fort Lauderdale (2006), Anguilla (2007), Mexico City (2007), Singapore (2007), Bal Harbour, FL (2008) and Deer Valley, UT (2008) that will further enhance the brand's legacy. Personalized service and amenities, enviable locations and luxuriously localized design are recognized worldwide as hallmarks of St. Regis experience. For more information on St. Regis Hotels & Resorts, please visit www.stregis.com.

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