

MUSEO DE ARTE DE PONCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

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TODO TOTEM

September 19, 2015 through January 15, 2016

Ponce, 2015 - On September 19, 2015 the Museo de Arte de Ponce will present *Todo Totem*, an exhibition consisting of three installations by contemporary artist Marko Remec: *Would That I Wish For (Tall Totem)*, *Conversation (Enclosed Totem)* and *Silent Echo (Floor Totem)*.

Todo Totem presents new installations of Remec's ongoing "Totem" series that refer to the social role of the indigenous totems of Pacific North America as objects that reflect the present. Remec uses industrial materials commonly found in the urban landscape of New York, such as telephone poles and safety mirrors, creating modern totems. In each of these installation pieces a multitude of mirrors creates an optical density that absorbs the viewer and their environment, guiding them toward self-reflection. *Would That I Wish For (Tall Totem)* is an outdoor installation which will be located across the permanent installation of Roy Lichtenstein's *Brushstrokes in Flight*. Attached in vertical fashion to a utility pole, 130 safety mirrors transform the traditional totem into a contemporary one. *Silent Echo (Floor Totem)* makes a guest appearance in the eighteenth-century galleries. This installation, consisting of 461 mirrors adhered to wooden bases of different heights in the center of the room, creates a wave that reflects the surrounding paintings. About 171 large mirrors cover completely the hexagonal walls of an upper gallery room to create *Conversation (Enclosed Totem)*, inviting the public to enter the artwork itself. These three spectacular installations multiply the space and offer layers of reflection

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to the visitors, forming a creative and dynamic ensemble that incites the *selfie* generation to pose and take pictures with the artworks.

Marko Remec is a conceptual sculptor based in New York. He was born in 1958 and earned a double bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Fine Arts from Williams College, which he later complemented with an MBA from the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. After twenty-five years in the finance sector of Wall Street, Remec returned to his studio and in 2012 exhibited his first "Totem" series at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill, NY. More recent exhibitions include a solo show, *Totally Totem* (2013), exhibited at MASS MoCA in North Adams, MA, where two of his installations are now on display indefinitely - *Would That I Wish For (Tall Totem)* and *Can't Hear You (Fat Totem)*.

ABOUT MUSEO DE ARTE DE PONCE

The Museo de Arte de Ponce was founded by Luis Alberto Ferré (1904-2003), a Puerto Rican philanthropist and cement tycoon who felt passionately about culture and education. The museum first opened its doors in 1959 in a colonial townhouse in Ponce, Puerto Rico, with a total of 71 artworks. The current main building, designed by American architect Edward Durell Stone, opened in 1965 and is now home to the nearly 4,500 artworks in the permanent collection. The strongest areas in the collection are Italian, French and Spanish painting from 1500 to 1900, as well as British nineteenth-century painting. Latin American and Contemporary art are also present in the collection, making it the most wide-ranging in the Caribbean.

BASIC INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

General Information Phone: 787.840.1510

Web site: www.museoarteponce.org

E-mail: info@museoarteponce.org

Where: 2325 Blvd. Luis A Ferré Aguayo, Ponce, PR 00717

Museum Hours: open six days a week: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays through Mondays. Closed Tuesdays.

Admission: \$6; seniors and students \$3; free for members. **Tour Information:** tours in Spanish and English are included in the price of admission at 11:00am and 2:00pm every day. **Shop:** the shop is open the same days as the Museum, closing fifteen minutes before the institution. **Group Visits:** Please call 787.840.1510 for details and to make reservations.