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Work Of Thai Artist Presented At The Santa Fe Show

(For immediate release, Santa Fe, NM) **Vichai Chinalai** of **Chinalai Tribal Antiques, Ltd.**, and **Chinalai Modern** (New York) will have a one-person show of his brush paintings in conjunction with **The Santa Fe Show, Objects of Art**, from August 12-21 at El Museo Cultural in the Santa Fe Railyard.

Vichai was trained as an architect in his native Thailand and in the United States. For twenty years he practiced architecture around the world before shifting paths into selling tribal Asian antiques. During a Rockefeller Foundation residency in Italy, Vichai began sketching the surrounding buildings and countryside and added yet another new direction. Intrigued by the people he saw and objects he collected in his travels, he began writing articles about them for Thai and western publications, using some of his drawings as illustrations. He then shifted to writing and illustrating poetry and from there to calligraphic ink, pen and brush paintings.

Vichai's writing seeps into his paintings. Never having studied calligraphy or painting, he has instead created his brush paintings, as he says, "without knowing right from wrong". The influence of growing up in Asia – from, in fact, being Asian – is evident, but there is no strict following of any tradition, no prescription for how much or how little ink to use. In the paintings there is just Vichai's personality, Vichai's Buddhist upbringing, Vichai's falling easily into a meditative state as he uses his multi-sized brushes and whatever quantity and concentration of ink feels "right". From his study of Zen and the Tao he follows the "let go" to achieve the maximum effect of minimalism.

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Many of the paintings use only one stroke of ink. Others combine simple brush strokes with mystical inscriptions, sometimes in Thai, sometimes in English and sometimes unrelated to existing language, a visual equivalent of speaking in tongues. Vichai's signature and seal also vary in form and placement to complement the brush strokes, often becoming integral components of his work. Vichai summarizes his work as painting and writing in their most elemental forms combined and executed as a meditation.

During the run of The Santa Fe Show, Chinalai Modern will be donating 10% of the proceeds from sales of Vichai's work to El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe.

About The Santa Fe Show "Objects of Art": **The Santa Fe Show** is a unique antiques and art show returning to Santa Fe at El Museo Cultural in the city's Railyard. The Santa Fe Show serves as a compliment to the city's traditional Ethnographic and Indian Market weekends. Premiering with a preview party benefiting the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society on Friday, August 12, **The Santa Fe Show** will be open to the public from August 13 through 15 and again on August 19 through 21, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. There will also be a second week opening event on Thursday, August 18 that will benefit El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe.

The Santa Fe Show features an elite selection of more than 60 vendors presenting outstanding examples of art and design in a wide range of media and historic periods including the work of living artists. Exhibitors at **The Santa Fe Show** represent the first tier of specialists in their fields and come from across the country including New York, Florida, California and Texas. **The Santa Fe Show** is operated by veteran fine art and antiques show producers Kim Martindale and John Morris.

Admission to **The Santa Fe Show** is \$12 per person (or \$16 for the run of show) with children under 16 admitted free. Updated show information is available on the web site, www.SantaFeShow.com or at 505-660-4701.

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