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Art Production Fund and Nevada Museum of Art Present *Seven Magic Mountains* by Ugo Rondinone, a large scale desert installation near Las Vegas

The public artwork will be on view for two years beginning May 11, 2016



Gianfranco Gorgoni, Seven Magic Mountains during Fabrication, 2015, Apex Quarry, Nevada

Across the desert south of Las Vegas, Nevada, rises a large, colorful anomaly. Seven colossal stone forms defy gravity with their teetering formations. The shapes, reminiscent of naturally-occurring hoodoos, seem poised between monumentality and collapse. The mammoth contemporary cairns created by internationally-renowned Swiss artist **Ugo Rondinone** evoke the art of meditative rock balancing, and mark his place in the history of Land Art.

Art Production Fund and **Nevada Museum of Art** present ***Seven Magic Mountains***, a large-scale, site-specific public artwork by Rondinone that has been nearly five years in the making. The installation, comprised of seven individual towering sculptures, is situated on the far southern end of Las Vegas Boulevard along Interstate 15, approximately a half hour from downtown Las Vegas. Positioned within the Ivanpah Valley and surrounded by mountains, the piece will be on view for two years beginning May 11, 2016.

Mediating between geological formations and abstract compositions, Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains* consists of locally-sourced limestone boulders stacked vertically in groups ranging between three and six. Each stone boasts a different fluorescent color; each individual totem stands between twenty-five and thirty feet high.

The artwork extends Rondinone's long-running interest in natural phenomena and their reformulation in art. The titles and forms of his paintings and sculptures have frequently evoked primordial phenomena such as air, moons, the sun, and the cosmos. Referring concurrently to the natural world, romanticism, and existentialism, *Seven Magic Mountains*

encapsulates a sort of mental trinity that has underpinned the artist's work for more than two decades. In a new iteration of themes and materials, *Seven Magic Mountains* creates a sense of romantic minimalism.

"*Seven Magic Mountains* elicits continuities and solidarities between human and nature, artificial and natural, then and now," states Rondinone.

Located a short distance from Nevada's legendary Jean Dry Lake where Jean Tinguely and Michael Heizer created significant sculptures, *Seven Magic Mountains* is one of the largest land-based art installations in the United States completed in over 40 years. The work pays homage to the history of Land Art while also offering a contemporary critique of the simulacra in nearby Las Vegas.

"*Seven Magic Mountains* is an internationally significant sculptural installation that helps open the door in Nevada to future large-scale, land-based art projects," said David B. Walker, Nevada Museum of Art executive director and CEO. Added Art Production Fund co-founders Doreen Remen and Yvonne Force Villareal, "Its location on the active Interstate 15 is especially exciting. Approximately 16 million vehicles will pass the work over its two year installation, making it one of the most visible works in the history of Land Art."

Seven Magic Mountains is produced by Art Production Fund, New York and Nevada Museum of Art, Reno. Located approximately 10 miles south of the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and St. Rose Parkway in Henderson, Nevada, the two-year installation will be on view beginning May 11, 2016. More at sevenmagicmountains.com.

Seven Magic Mountains Presenting Sponsor: ARIA Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. Lead Sponsor: McDonald Carano LLP. Major Sponsors: Banana Republic; Diana Bennett; Nevada Commission on Tourism; Alvaro and Linda Pascotto; VIA Art Fund. Sponsors: Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority; Nevada Department of Transportation; Katie O'Neill and Chris Gonya; Pro Helvetia. Friends of Seven Magic Mountains: Denise Cashman; Robin Greenspun; Nicole Ruvo; Tarissa Tiberti; Michele Quinn. Additional Support: Barbara Gladstone Gallery; John Klai; Las Vegas Paving Corporation.

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Ugo Rondinone was born in 1964 in Brunnen, Switzerland. He is a mixed-media artist whose works explore themes of time, space, fantasy and desire. Rondinone's work is included in the foremost private and public collections in the world including: The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, among others. Rondinone represented Switzerland at the 52nd Venice Biennial. He lives and works in New York.

Art Production Fund (APF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to commissioning and producing ambitious public art projects, reaching new audiences and expanding awareness through contemporary art. Art Production Fund (APF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to commissioning and producing ambitious public art projects, reaching new audiences and expanding awareness through contemporary art. Recent projects include: David Brooks, Desert Rooftops, NYC, 2011; Josephine Meckseper, Manhattan Oil Project, NYC, 2012; Kiki Smith, Chorus, NYC, 2012; Yoko Ono, Imagine Peace Times Square, NYC, 2012; Yvette Mattern, Global Rainbow After The Storm, NYC, 2012; Ryan McGinley, Taxi TV, NYC, 2013; Tony Smith, One-Two-Three, NYC, 2013; Tracey Emin, Roman Standard, NYC 2013; Pop Up 1: Montauk, NY, 2013; ThreeASFOUR, MER KA BA, NYC, 2013; Marco Brambilla, Anthropocene, NYC, 2013; Vanessa Beecroft, VB73, NYC, 2014; Deborah Kass, The Street, MA, 2014; Jessica Craig-Martin, Hyde Park Village, FL, 2014; FriendsWithYou, Light Cave, NYC, 2014; Snarkitecture, Calvin Klein Holiday Installation, NYC, 2014; Hanna Liden, Everything, NYC 2015. Co-Founders: Yvonne Force Villareal & Doreen Remen; Executive Director: Casey Fremont. For more Information, please visit artproductionfund.org.

Nevada Museum of Art is a museum of ideas. The only accredited art museum in the state of Nevada, it is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming and scholarship, the Museum provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage and enjoy a diversity of art and education experiences. In 2009, the Museum founded the Center for Art + Environment, an internationally recognized research center dedicated to supporting the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their environments. The Center houses archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Burning Man, and Center for Land Use Interpretation. For more information, visit nevadaart.org.