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**SHEKHAR KAPUR / DAVID ADJAYE: “SANKALPA”
CRYSTAL MOVING PICTURES**

An interpretation of the short film “Passage“

The moving pictures installation entitled “Sankalpa” by Shekhar Kapur and David Adjaye will be on show from 19th of June 2009 in the Swarovski Crystal Worlds. Two art forms merge in this installation: film and architecture. Together, the film maker and the architect embark on a search for a new hybrid format shifting conventional limits that determine the viewing of a film and the experience of architecture. Kapur’s filmic “Passage“ penetrates Adjayes’ kaleidoscopic space and invites visitors to explore and to experience extraordinary architecture and multifarious levels of meaning.

Since his multiple Oscar nominated world success “Elizabeth” (1998), starring Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett, Shekhar Kapur has become one of the most successful international directors of today. Together with David Adjaye, also an internationally renowned contemporary architect, Shekhar Kapur has now designed a venue for a sensuous filmic experience in the Crystal Worlds. They are answering the questions: How might the cinema look like in the future? What happens, if films are no longer simply viewed, but if they integrate the audience into the happening? In the installation “Sankalpa“, not only pictures are set in motion, but also the visitors: In an “art room” that has been exclusively created for the Crystal Worlds, the visitors follow the sequence of the filmic happening and start to devise their own stories in their heads.

The title “Sankalpa“ is taken from Indian yoga-thought and means “resolution“, “free will“ and “imagination“. The installation transforms the abstract term into a sensual experience in the form of a spatial crystallisation: Kapur’s complex film “Passage“ is projected through Adjayes’ crystalline architecture, it is interrupted and can be



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experienced in its endless facets and ideals. In “Sankalpa“, the mystical connection between film and crystal becomes evident: The fascination of crystal as “a moving picture“ that brings ever new aspects and perspectives alive, while it cannot be ultimately explained, is reinterpreted by the film as contemporary light art. With “Sankalpa“, the visitor enters a spiritual crystallisation transformed into image and space: both artists invite to become immersed into their filmic “Crystal World “and to follow your own fantasy, your own “Sankalpa”.

David Adjaye, who only came to architecture after a “detour“ via art studies, has realised joint projects with numerous stars of the art world such as Olafur Eliasson or the Turner laureate Chris Ofili. He describes the experience awaiting the visitor of “Sankalpa“: “A mysterious and hypnotic way of becoming immersed into Shekhar Kapur’s film.“

Kapur’s film “Passage“ is beyond conventional reception: Instead of narrating a linear story, atmospherically and emotionally charged scenes are arranged in such a way that the question of their “correct“ order arises in time. “In the comprehensive experience, which I create for you artistically, I invite you, each individual visitor, to decide, what it means *for you*“, so formulates Shekhar Kapur his creative principle.

Accordingly, the story in “Passage“ can be decoded by everybody differently: the Hollywood-actresses Julia Stiles (*The Bourne Identity*) and Haley Bennett (*Music and Lyrics* with Hugh Grant) as well as the British actress and supermodel Lily Cole find themselves in mysterious ambiances, the exact context remains to be unravelled. The film, however, does not only present things to see and to think about, but also to hear: The soundtrack composed by the Academy Award winner Ar Rahman (*Slumdog Millionaire*) plays with motifs from diverse styles of music.

Andreas Braun is highly enthusiastic about this extraordinary joint art project: “As host for this crystal moving picture, I am delighted that the Crystal Worlds in Wattens may



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make a small contribution to the innovative rejuvenation of the fantastic realm of perception – the cinema.”

Cross-border experiments are already traditional in the Crystal Worlds: Harald Szeemann’s “Temporary Enchantment“ with Ingeborg Lüscher’s interpretation of the “Amber Room“ (2004 to 2007), the reconstruction of Alexander Skrijabin’s musical “Prometheus Dome“ (2004 to 2007) and more recently Hans Magnus Enzensberger’s touch exhibition “Wordplaything“ (2008), Now “Sankalpa“ focuses on repeatedly new interpretations of crystal as an artistic medium for walkable multi media synthesis of the arts, enabling the visitor to experience crystal in a surprisingly sensual way.

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BIOGRAPHIES OF THE ARTISTS

Shekhar Kapur

Shekhar Kapur is one of the world's most well known film directors and one of the few directors who have worked extensively in India's film Industry (Bollywood) as well as in Hollywood. Shekhar was a successful chartered accountant and management consultant in London before he started to go on an adventure into the creative arts.

His first Hindi film "Masoom" went on to win 5 filmfare awards, the biggest film awards in India. He then made a breakthrough science-fiction film "Mr. India", which was a huge commercial success, and is considered one of the iconic films of the 80s in India cinema. He directed the critically acclaimed "Bandit Queen" which was widely appreciated at major festivals worldwide. In 1998, Kapur got international recognition for directing "Elizabeth", which was nominated for 7 Oscars. The film also catapulted Cate Blanchett into a major Hollywood star after her portrayal as Queen Elizabeth. He then directed Heath Ledger in "The Four Feathers" based on the novel by the same name by A.E.W. Mason. Kapur also executive produced the Bollywood-themed Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Bombay Dreams", which became a very big hit in London's West End and was remade into a Broadway musical in New York.

Kapur returned to direct Cate Blanchett in "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" which was a sequel to the original Elizabeth. Golden Age was nominated for 2 Oscars including Cate Blanchett for actress in a leading role, and won the Oscar for best costume design. In 2008 he directed a segment of the film "New York, I love you". He is one of the 12 internationally acclaimed directors for the film which is similar in concept to the successful feature film "Paris, je t'aime".

Kapurs new passion is new media, which he believes is fundamentally changing the way we live. He is actively involved in the creation of a new media development fund



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out of Singapore. He also sits on the board of the Media Development Authority (MDA) for the Singapore government.

Shekhar is regularly invited to speak at the World Economic Forum. He's currently an environmental activist with water conservation related issues. He's on the board of the "Global Water Challenge", the world's premier non-profit-organization for water related issues.

Kapur is presently involved with his passion project, "Paani", a film about the impending water wars in the world.



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David Adjaye

David Adjaye was born in 1966 in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and grew up in Egypt, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, moving with his family to London when he was nine. The charismatic young star of architecture, whose parents come from Africa and who actually wanted to be an artist, is celebrated as the outstanding talent of the British architectural scene. His works are displayed throughout the world in prestigious museums of art and architecture and have been showered with praise in specialist journals and also lifestyle magazines such as Vogue and Time Magazine.

Adjaye's works are characterised by their conceptual way of working. As is also the case with the spatial installations of his artistic colleagues of the YBA (Young British Art) Generation, his buildings usually hint at minimalism and only open up to the visitor when he enters them – Adjaye stands for an architecture which addresses the feelings which seduce, an architecture which seeks to intensify the space so that its presence can be experienced by the senses. It is here less a case of an opulent foreground which is pleasing to look at, more a case of architecture's power as an emotional, atmospheric structure shaping our psyche and our moods.

David Adjaye originally began his career by studying art, only later turning to architecture. His experiences and contacts from this period later gave rise to collaborative projects with stars of the art world such as Olafur Eliasson, Jake Chapman and the Turner Prize Winner Chris Ofili. These were followed by projects for Jürgen Teller, Ewan McGregor and Alexander McQueen. In 2003 the eloquent young star was given his own BBC show about contemporary architecture and in 2005 he published the book "David Adjaye Houses: Recycling, Reconfiguring, Rebuilding". His works include the Nobel Prize Centre in Oslo, the Museums of Contemporary Art in New York and Denver, as well as numerous projects in the USA, Asia and Africa. David Adjaye teaches at the renowned Architectural Association in London and is currently responsible for the design of the new Smithsonian Museum in Washington.



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In 1895, Daniel Swarovski I, a Bohemian inventor and visionary, moved to the village of Wattens, Tyrol in Austria, with his newly-invented machine for cutting and polishing crystal jewellery stones. From this beginning that revolutionised the fashion world, Swarovski has grown to be the world's leading producer of precision-cut crystal, for fashion, jewellery and more recently lighting, architecture and interiors. Today, the company, still based in Wattens, family-owned and run by 4th and 5th generation family members, has a global reach, with some 26.000 employees, a presence in over 120 countries and a turnover in 2008 of 2.52 billion Euros. Swarovski comprises two major businesses, one producing and selling loose elements to the industry and the other creating design-driven finished products. Swarovski crystal components, known by their product brand names CRYSTALLIZED™ - Swarovski Elements for fashion and STRASS® Swarovski® Crystal for architecture and light, have become an essential ingredient of international design. Since 1965 the company has also catered to the fine jewellery industry with precision-cut genuine and created gemstones, and from April 2008 has strengthened this relationship by revitalising and renaming the product brand ENLIGHTENED™ - Swarovski Elements. Showing the creativity that lies at the heart of the company, Swarovski's own-brand lines of accessories, jewellery and home décor are sold through more than 1,600 retail outlets in all major fashion capitals. The exclusive Daniel Swarovski accessories collection has meanwhile become the company's couture signature. The Swarovski Crystal Society has close to 350,000 members worldwide, keen collectors of the celebrated crystal figurines. And in Wattens, Swarovski Kristallwelten, the multi-media crystal museum, was opened in 1995, as a celebration of Swarovski's universe of innovation and inspiration. The Swarovski corporation also includes Tyrolit®, manufacturing grinding tools, Swareflex®, for road safety reflectors and Swarovski Optik, producing precision optical instruments.

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