

February 20th , 2005

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“ALEX FLEMMING: FLYING CARPETS”

**‘East Meets West’ in an Intriguing Series of Wall Works
At the Chicago Cultural Center February 26—May 1, 2005**

Curator: Tereza de Arruda

International artist Alex Flemming returns to the Chicago Cultural Center with a new series of work this winter. His first solo show in the United States in many years and a North American premiere, **Alex Flemming: Flying Carpets** will come only to the Chicago Cultural Center’s Michigan Avenue Galleries, located at 78 E. Washington Street from February 26 through May 1, 2005.

The exhibit features a series of airplane-silhouetted objects that are covered by cut-up carpets, in a patchwork that recalls “1001 Arabian Nights.” In a peaceful co-existence of western technology and rich oriental tradition, his wall works serve as a reminder of how the West was, and still is, influenced by the East, and vice-versa.

“**Flying Carpets** is a provocative exhibition with the intention of bridging, rather than separating, world views that seem far apart,” said Gregory Knight, Director of Visual Arts for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. “Flemming hopes to open a dialogue on East-West relations by bringing the airplane and the Oriental carpet together in one place.”

Alex Flemming: Flying Carpets is organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, and presented with support from Bank One. Admission to the exhibition and gallery talk is free.

A gallery talk, led by Gregory Knight, will take place in the Michigan Avenue Galleries at the Chicago Cultural Center on Thursday, April 7, 2005 at 12:15 p.m.

The son of a Brazilian airline pilot and a flight attendant, Alex Flemming has led a nomadic life. As a child, he lived with his parents in Brazil, the United States (Florida) and Portugal. In the 1980s, he became well-known in the São Paulo art circuit, then moved to New York to attend art school on a Fulbright scholarship and settled in Berlin in the early 1990s. His exposure to cosmopolitan living has inspired his politically-engaged art.

Alex Flemming: Flying Carpets is accompanied an eighteen page catalogue presented by the curator Tereza de Arruda, which will be available for sale in the Shop at the Cultural Center.

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Viewing hours for **Alex Flemming: Flying Carpets** are Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Chicago Cultural Center is closed on holidays.

Bank One is the Official Presenting Sponsor of the Michigan Avenue Galleries. Exhibitions and related educational programming presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs at the Chicago Cultural Center are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

For more information, visit www.chicagoculturalcenter.org. or call 312.744.6630 (TTY: 312.744.2947). To arrange special group tours, call 312.744.8032.

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Alex Flemming
"Flying Carpets," 2004
wood and carpet

Note to Press: Electronic Images available upon request