

**April 20, 2015**

## **Press Release - Mist of the Earth Art Exhibit**

### **Washington, D.C. - MULTI-MEDIA ARTIST DENISE MILAN'S "MIST OF THE EARTH" EXHIBIT TO OPEN IN MAY AT THE WILSON CENTER WITH A WORKSHOP ON ART AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**On May 20th, the Brazil Institute of the Wilson Center will bring to Washington the Brazilian artist Denise Milan's "Mist of the Earth," an exhibition of photographs and photo-collages that joins memory and history and invites viewers on a journey of imagination and reflection about the environmental challenges of development.**

**One of Brazil's visionary artists and a well-known eco-activist, Denise Milan uses photography, sculpture and collage to produce what the Brazilian poet Haroldo de Campos once described as an action of disconnecting structures from their natural scenery "by interfering in an extremely creative way in terms of aesthetic information. An aspect of nature – already splendid in itself – is granted as a Brazilian endowment to such sensitive artist."**

**Among Milan's many international admirers are New York art collectors and trend setters Zoe e Joe Dictrow.**

**"Mist of the Earth" revisits Milan's deeply humanistic work of the past quarter century as an ecological and arts education activist, as well as an artist. Her diverse artwork draws actively from her experiences living with and interviewing people both in the lush Brazilian coastal village of Paraty and the dry desolate lands of Bahia in Brazil's northeast.**

**Milan's vision of her country takes the viewer through three thematic zones: "Paradise," "Paradise Lost," and "Paradise Regained." -- "Paradise" brims with images that playfully conjure a verdant natural world of abundance and exuberance. "Paradise Lost" depicts an Earth that has been torn apart, despoiled in which the torment of the people parallels the ravages of the land. And finally, "Paradise Regained" asserts the possibility of hope after darkness.**

**The exhibition is the culmination of this experience and the embodiment of the artist's ongoing concerns—as much a testament to a troubling legacy of colonization, the enslavement of African peoples, and the despoilment of whole regions, as to the more life-asserting side of Brazil, its beauty and soaring spirit.**

**“Mist of the Earth” will open with a workshop on Art and Sustainability to be held as part of the series “Managing Our Planet,” which the Wilson Center’s Brazil Institute and Environmental Change and Security Program have co-hosted for the since 2012 with George Mason University’s Environmental Science and Policy Program. Speakers will include Thomas E. Lovejoy, Professor, George Mason University; Manuela Mena, Senior Curator , Nineteenth Century Painting and Goya, Museo del Prado, Madrid; and Naomi Moniz, Professor Emeritus, Georgetown University.**

**Denise Milan: Mist of the Earth curated by Simon Watson, an independent curator and art critic based in New York.**

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

**Born in São Paulo, Brazil, Denise Milan is a multidisciplinary artist who works in sculpture, photo-collage, and other media, as well as in the fields of ecological and arts education activism. Milan work has been featured in exhibits in São Paulo, Belém, Brasília, Chapingo, Chicago, Hakone, Hannover, London, New York, Osaka, Paris, Salvador, Taiwan, and Washington.**

#### **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

**The Wilson Center’s presentation of "Denise Milan: Mist of the Earth" is curated by Simon Watson. A thirty-year veteran of the cultural scene on three continents, Watson is an independent curator, art advisor and journalist based in New York and São Paulo. This is the exhibit’s third appearance, after São Paulo’s Galeria Virgílio from March to April 2014 and the Chicago Cultural Center from June 2012 to January 2013.**

**For more information about Denise Milan: Mist of the Earth, visit the artist’s website [www.DeniseMilanStudio.com](http://www.DeniseMilanStudio.com). Ms. Milan is available for press interviews. Please contact her directly at [dmilan@uol.com.br](mailto:dmilan@uol.com.br).**

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#### **ABOUT THE WILSON CENTER and the BRAZIL INSTITUTE**

**The Wilson Center provides a strictly nonpartisan space for the worlds of policymaking and scholarship to interact. By conducting relevant and timely research and promoting dialogue from all perspectives, it works to address the critical current and emerging challenges confronting the United States and the world.**

**The Brazil Institute seeks to foster dialogue on key issues of bilateral concern between Brazil and the United States, while advancing Washington’s understanding of the complexities of Brazil as a regional, democratic power, and an emerging global player. The Institute focuses on advancing understanding in the fields of innovation, economics, rule of law, environmental sustainability and climate change.**