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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jose Sanint opening reception Wednesday November 16th 6-9PM
Private viewing by appointment only from November 17 through
December 16, 2011 call 212-966-1997
83 Leonard Street, 4th Floor (Tribeca)

Salomon Arts Gallery is pleased to announce a Jose Sanint's Art-Tapestry exhibition entitled "Through the Silence".

In 2010, architect Jose Sanint closed his architecture and interior design office in Colombia and traveled abroad to the Himalayas. He listened to his inner voice that urged him to seek out other paths of knowledge and during 108 days of enduring silence he created a unique collection of art tapestries.

Sanint journeyed through the mountains of Nepal and befriended Pasang Tsering, a 50 year old Tibetan, who introduced Sanint to the culture of his remote village. Together the two men began a project: gathering and restoring ancient Himalayan fabrics to their original glory. After many months of exploration and creation with these fabrics, the two men had created a collection of tapestries that became the catalyst for creating The Akrahala Foundation.

The tapestries are made from antique ceremonial costumes, most of which are between 150 and 200 years old, originally worn by holy women during Buddhist ceremonies. In search of a way to preserve these textiles – and, in turn, preserve a historical part of the quickly diminishing Tibetan culture – Tsering, used traditional methods to physically restore the fabrics, while Sanint designed contemporary tapestries with modern patterns. Together, they created the artwork, using the same ritual process used to make the fabric's antique counterparts. The result is a modern piece of art created with ancient materials – a tapestry with equal parts history and hope for the future.

The fabric is dyed and hand woven on a vertical loom. While they weave, the women recite mantras, preparing the ceremonial fabrics to be blessed by enlightened monks, or Lamas. Traditionally, a woman will craft these ritual garments for her mother and each of her male family members to be worn for Buddhist ceremonies. She will exclude herself from the fruits of her labor. When the woman's grandmother passes away, she will inherit the matriarch's coveted clothing. Thus the process comes full circle.

The Akrahala Foundation will establish a workshop that will keep these traditional Tibetan-Himalayan weaving customs alive while also creating a space in the global market for contemporary works of this ancient art form. Through these endeavors, Akrahala will assist the artisans in sharing their art with the world, creating a way for these craftswomen to promote their heritage and support their families.