**Speech by Ranjana K. Ghose, Jharna-Kala Art Foundation**

**Introducing exhibit “Paintings for World Peace and Harmony”**

**by Sri Chinmoy**

**Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland**

**June 6, 2017**

**Why Peace through Art?**

What greater and more appropriate role could art play! Art itself, like humanity, thrives best in a climate of peace. And art, like humanity and like children of humanity, perishes as a result of war and intolerance. As art is a child of our heart that must be nurtured, nourished and cared for, humanity must also be nurtured and cared for as a child of our own heart.

The world is crying to each one of us for help. These paintings are as though an affirmation of faith in our own humanity. May they serve as a reminder in the middle of a stressful day or a profound epiphany at twilight as to who we are and who we might truly become.

Our deep gratitude to H.E. Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and to the Cultural Diplomacy and Outreach Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva for their enormous support and expertise in bringing this exhibition to fruition.

Our special thanks go to H.E. Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in Geneva for graciously sponsoring this exhibition of Paintings for World Peace and Harmony by Sri Chinmoy.

These paintings for world-harmony, these paintings for peace, are by artist Sri Chinmoy. His signature “CKG” Peace-Birds have been an artistic endorsement of world peace for decades.

Sri Chinmoy’s art embodies the messages of world peace, harmony, light and an aspiration for a more concerned society.

In using this genre to help culture peace in the self and in the world, Sri Chinmoy created peace-bird drawings and paintings with inspiring dedications, surely in hopes of kindling an awareness and strengthening a progress toward that concern in fellow world citizens.

In that sense, what better way for the exhibit to have begun its journey than at the United Nations Headquarters in New York ten years ago. To have the art now exhibited here at the United Nations Office at Geneva is surely profoundly significant and fulfilling.

**About this exhibition**

This exhibition is comprised of several distinct series of paintings. We have tried to arrange them so that you might find it easier to identify them. One section would be **the many “Peace-Bird drawings of Sri Chinmoy”.** These drawings were originally shown in exhibition at the “Carrousel du Louvre”, Paris, in 2006.

A second series would be “**the paintings with a message for humanity”.** These were first shown at an exhibition in St. Petersburg State University, Russia by the Diaghilev Center of Art at the Smolny Institute, 2004. This is a series of 9" x 12" acrylic paintings on “Canson’s” watercolour paper. These paintings had been painted in November of 2003 by the artist, and are characterized by being uniquely inscribed with an epithet or title or message, if you will. The messages on this series most assuredly reflect the artist’s own intentions through his art. Sixteen paintings from the series are included in this show.

 These paintings bear the messages of:

Beauty Hope

Purity Dedication

Harmony The Song of the Soul

Success Sincerity

Self-offering Surrender

Self-offering Love

Prosperity Heart-Garden

Glory Life-Tree

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The third type of work included in this show is the **mixed media pieces**. These include the fourteen large canvases. You will also notice a number of enlargements of scroll-like bird drawings to enhance the visibility of the exhibition.

Through the “Paintings for World Peace and Harmony” exhibitions,

Sri Chinmoy has offered his art in as many different public spaces as

possible so that these messages of brotherhood might be viewed, received and shared by brothers and sisters of humanity from all over the world, and from all walks of life.

We do hope you enjoy this Exhibition of the Paintings for World Peace and Harmony by Sri Chinmoy.