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THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS ON EARTH

Press Release
March 2011

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM FOUNDATION TO HONOUR MICHAEL BRUNO

On the 24th April 2012, The Sir John Soane Foundation in New York, will honour Michael Bruno, founder of 1stdibs.com, at its prestigious "Innovators Gala".

The award, made annually by the Foundation, is given to present day leaders in the fields of architecture, design and architectural education. Michael Bruno is receiving his award in recognition of his achievements as an innovator who has transformed the way in which antiques, design and collectables are both sourced and sold internationally.

Launched in 2001, 1stdibs has become the world's largest online platform which showcases immediately available to purchase - curated items from 1,200 prestigious international dealers in the fields of antiques, design, fine art and collectibles together on one website.

Michael Bruno carefully vets each dealer on the site, which includes some of the most influential dealers from across London, USA, Paris, Canada and Mexico City and is soon to launch in the Benelux region. More than £315 million in sales were reported by 1stdibs dealers in 2011 with over 7,000 items reported sold by the site's dealers each month.

"I am delighted to receive such an important award," says Michael Bruno. "The Sir John Soane's Museum is like no other. I remember visiting just last year and the experience still resonates with me. It's rare to find a hidden gem like this where the spirit of the owner still lives. Everyone should experience the thrill of being in these rooms and communing with the genius that created such a wondrous space. I feel very honoured."

The award embodies the spirit and ethos of Sir John Soane, R.A., an English architect who significantly influenced the 18th and early 19th century. Soane enjoyed a distinguished career as an architect, teacher and collector. Upon his death in 1837, his London home, in Lincoln's Inn Fields,

was left to the nation as a museum. Other examples of Soane's work include The Dulwich Picture Gallery as well as sections of the Bank of England. The Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation was founded in the USA in 1991 to further Soane's goal to teach the public architecture, fine and decorative arts. For more information on 1stdibs www.1stdibs.com and the Innovators Gala www.soanefoundation.com/gala.html

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Notes to Editors:

1stdibs

Founded in 2001 by Michael Bruno, 1stdibs is the world's largest online platform which showcases immediately available to purchase - curated items from 1,200 prestigious international dealers in the fields of antiques, design, fine art and collectibles together on one website.

Over the past eleven years, 1stdibs has become the ultimate destination for collectors and affluent consumers to purchase one-of-a-kind items through a virtual experience that encourages exploration and research. 1stdibs attracts more than 2 million visits a month, with more than 2,500 new pieces added each week. The site counts connoisseurs, collectors, design professionals, arts and entertainment figures, and business leaders among its loyal customers.

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Sir John Soane Foundation

Each year the Soane Foundation celebrates Sir John Soane's singular contributions as an architect and educator by bestowing Soane Foundation Honours on present day leaders in the fields of architecture, design and architectural education.

Soane was a visionary who used his home as a laboratory for his ideas, the repository for his vast collections of 30,000 drawings; paintings including Canalettos, Hogarths and Turners; architectural models; Greek and Roman sculpture and Egyptian Antiquities; 10,000 rare books, including first editions of Milton and Shakespeare, as well as his furnishing of this very personal dwelling space.

The Soane Foundation Honours for 2012 are Michael Bruno from 1stdibs and Diller Scofidio + Renfro, architects and designers, including Elizabeth Diller, Richard Scofidio and Charles Renfro.

Past recipients of Soane Foundation Honours includes:

- 2011: Allan Greenberg and 20th Anniversary celebration of the Founders of the Foundation, past Board and Advisory members
- 2010: A. Eugene Kohn, Susan Weber and Yale University Press
- 2009: Jaquelin T. Robertson, Rizzoli International Publications
- 2008: Robert A. M. Stern, The Monacelli Press
- 2007: Richard H. Driehaus, David Macaulay

