

Fineqia International Inc.

## World's Largest Online Art Auction To Include Black, Asian And Minority Ethnic Charity

### Art&Co. to Include Race on the Agenda (ROTA) as Seventh Charity

LONDON, June 18, 2020 /CNW/ - Art&Co., the world's largest online art auction to support charities alleviating those suffering from disease, depression and domestic violence due to Covid-19, has added Race on the Agenda (ROTA), the seventh charity among those it is supporting to highlight the disproportionate effects of the coronavirus on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities in the UK. Fineqia International Inc. (the "Company" or "Fineqia") (CSE: FNQ) (OTC: FNQQF) (Frankfurt: FNQA) is among Art&Co.'s founding partners.

The risk of Covid-19 related death is more than four times as high for people of black ethnicity than for those of white ethnicity, after adjusting for age. BAME populations in England and Wales are twice as likely to die if they contract Covid-19. Among health professionals, the statistics are particularly stark. While one out of five healthcare workers are BAME, they numbered three among five who died. Among doctors, 90% of those who died were BAME, twice their proportion amongst medical staff. \*

"This is deadly evidence of existing socio-economic inequalities that exist in British society," said Andy Gregg, CEO of ROTA. "The numbers state the sad reality that we've tried to have redressed for the past three and a half decades. Real change is long overdue."

ROTA has sought to highlight the number of BAME lives being taken by coronavirus, as racial inequality has been highlighted amidst Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests in the US and elsewhere.

"Racism still exists because the majority of people still uphold its systems at every level, said [Sola Olulode](#), a British-Nigerian artist participating in Art&Co. "It's about not getting hired for a job, being stopped and searched on the street, not getting funding, being deported."

More than 260 pieces of art are being auctioned to bidders from across the globe by Art&Co. Funds raised are being shared by seven registered charities and 42 artists who have come together in the fight against the four D's of the Covid-19 virus: disease, depression, domestic violence and disproportionate effect on black and ethnic minorities.

Amongst famous artists Picasso, Dali, Warhol, and Koons represented at Art&Co., Olulode is an emerging artist who was a finalist for the 2018 Evening Standard Art Prize. An advocate for rights of BAME individuals, she has more than a dozen of her works on the auction site that explore personal and collective experiences of the communities.

"Black artists have struggled for representation within the art world," Olulode added. "We need to have a wider conversation about why that is and how we can go about changing that."

"ROTA is a real agent of much needed change and we're proud to support its efforts," said Bundeep Singh Rangar, Art&Co.'s founder and Fineqia's CEO. "We've also ensured Art&Co. is a real mosaic of the UK population at large, with 80% UK artists and 20% foreign."

International artists include those from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, India, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain and the United States. The youngest artist is a 26-year-old Royal College of Art graduate and winner of the Hine Award for Painting; the oldest is a 65-year-old American artist in New York.

Art&Co. is backed by PremFina's InsurAid unit. Its auction is being extended to June 27 to highlight the unequal effect of Covid-19 among BAME communities and allow for the auction to better support ROTA. Funds raised from InsurAid's Art&Co. project will be distributed to artists out of work, for their art pieces, and seven registered charities: ICU Steps, The Care Workers Charity, Khalsa Aid International, Painting Our World in Silver, ROTA, Solace Women's Aid and Za Teb.

\*Statistics sourced from the charity The Health Foundation, (<https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/emerging-findings-on-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-black-and-min>), the British Medical Association (<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/your-health/covid-19-the-risk-to-bame-doctors>) and Public Health England ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892085/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf)) and Sky News <https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-black-and-asian-ethnic-groups-up-to-twice-as-likely-to-die-from-virus-says-public-health-england-11999167>.

Fineqia: <https://www.fineqia.com/>

Art&Co.: <https://www.artandco.net>

ROTA: <https://www.rota.org.uk>

InsurAid: <https://insuraid.co.uk>

PremFina: <https://www.premfina.com>

About Art&Co.

Art&Co. is the world's largest online art auction to help with the immediate as well as longer term effects of COVID-19, including illness, mental health and domestic violence.

About ROTA

Race on the Agenda (ROTA) is a London-based, BAME-led social policy organisation focused on issues affecting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. All ROTA's work is based on the principle that those with direct experience of inequality should be central to solutions to address it. Our policy priorities of health, education and criminal justice are shaped by the lived experiences of BAME communities and their organisations.

#### ABOUT FINEQIA INTERNATIONAL INC.

Fineqia International Inc. is a listed entity in Canada (CSE: FNQ), the US (OTC: FNQQF) and Europe (Frankfurt: FNQA). Fineqia International outlines the Company's corporate governance, culture, processes and relations by which the Company and its subsidiaries are controlled, directed and governed. It oversees and ensures the overall success, planning and growth of the Company and all of its subsidiaries and investments, including those propagating blockchain technologies. For more information visit: <https://investors.fineqia.com/news>.

#### About PremFina Ltd

PremFina Ltd is a UK-based premium finance company that promotes financial inclusion by enabling the payment of insurance premiums via instalments. It supplies insurance brokers with funding lines and also enables broker-funded and branded credit agreements via its Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) affiliate IXL PremFina Ltd. With PremFina, brokers receive higher profit, greater autonomy and the opportunity to increase the lifetime value of their customers as well as cross-sell and up-sell additional products. PremFina's shareholders include global investors Rakuten Capital, Draper Esprit Plc, Thomvest Ventures, Emery Capital, Rubicon Venture Capital, Talis Capital and the company's founder & CEO.

#### About InsurAid

InsurAid is a PremFina company set up to encourage corporate and personal donations to support those affected by humanitarian disasters, public health and safety crises. InsurAid focuses on events for which insurance is scarce or unavailable.

#### SOURCE Fineqia International Inc.

For further information: Megan Punter, Marketing Associate, [megan.punter@Fineqia.com](mailto:megan.punter@Fineqia.com), Tel: +44 7956 834 977; JPR Media Group, Jessica Patterson, [Jessica@jprmediagroup.com](mailto:Jessica@jprmediagroup.com), Tel +44 7950 977 765

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