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WALLY FINDLAY GALLERIES HONORS CHILEAN ARTIST GUSTAVO NOVOA; RAISES VITAL DONATIONS TO CONSERVE HIS MUSE – BIG CATS

Scientists and researchers from Panthera thank artist for raising awareness of the endangered animals and contributing to their work in the field

NEW YORK, NY - [Wally Findlay Galleries'](http://www.wallyfindlay.com) celebration of [Gustavo Novoa's](http://www.gustavonova.com) work last night raised vital donations to conserve the subjects of many of his paintings - big cats and the forests and jungles in which they live. The Gallery in Midtown hosted a 35-year retrospective of Novoa's surrealist paintings featuring big cats and other wildlife to raise money for the wild cat conservation organization [Panthera](http://www.panthera.org). Created by some of the world's pre-eminent animal scientists, Panthera develops, implements, and oversees range-wide conservation strategies for the world's largest, most imperiled cats – tigers, lions, jaguars and snow leopards.

Novoa's paintings depict the same big cats in lush and often dream-like landscapes. His work debuted at Wally Findlay Galleries in the early 70s in New York, Palm Beach, Paris and Beverly Hills and is collected by fashion celebrities including Valentino, Carolina Herrera and Hanae Mori.

While Novoa's paintings have been featured in numerous one-man shows around the world, last night's event marked the first time they were showcased alongside real images of the cats that inspired them. Award winning Panthera photographer Steve Winter lent his photographs of jaguars and tigers to appear alongside Novoa's art.

“My work has evolved through the years and the jungles I paint have become more stylized and lately surreal, but the message my paintings evoke remains the same - we all must preserve and live in harmony with our environment,” said **Novoa**. “My paintings are an extension of my values, and preserving the lives of these beautiful creatures is what I hold most dear. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to contribute to conserving them in the wild.”

Panthera founder and CEO Alan Rabinowitz gave special thanks to those who attended the event and shared his personal reasons for devoting his life to saving the world’s big cats.

“Scientists and artists share a common bond when it comes to inspiration. It is not uncommon for either vocation to be built upon a solitary experience, usually one of great meaning. The grace and beauty of these animals stole Mr. Novoa’s heart and dictated for him a life in art. For me, these cats offered a safe haven during a troubled time in my childhood and it compelled me to make their survival my life’s work.”

“Many artists thrive on real-life inspiration and we were thrilled to introduce Mr. Novoa to the people who work to protect his muse every day in the wild,” said **Stephanie B. Clark, Vice President of Wally Findlay Galleries**. “By bringing together the artistic and scientific communities at this unique gallery event we were able to put a spotlight on the beauty and grace of the world’s big cats, and more importantly, the fragile circumstances surrounding their very existence. The resources we gathered for this cause last night will ensure that future artists have the opportunity to be inspired by these gorgeous creatures.”

Founded in 1870, with galleries in New York, Palm Beach, Barcelona, and Los Angeles, Wally Findlay Galleries International represents contemporary artists worldwide and specializes in Impressionist and Modern Masters.

Panthera was founded four years ago with the sole mission of conserving the 36 species of wild cats. Panthera’s scientists work on the frontlines of conservation throughout the world and

develop programming that focuses on partnerships with local and international NGO's, scientific institutions, and local and national government agencies.

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