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MDC Museum of Art + Design and CINTAS Foundation Announce 2014-15 50th Jubilee Fellowship Competition in Creative Writing

Winners to be announced at Museum at MDC's National Historic Landmark Miami Freedom Tower

Miami, June 23, 2014 – The **Miami Dade College (MDC) Museum of Art + Design** and the **CINTAS Foundation** have announced the ongoing **2014-15 50th Jubilee CINTAS Foundation Fellowship Competition in Creative Writing** coinciding with the exhibition ***Impact and Legacy: 50 Years of the CINTAS Foundation***. All submission materials must be received by August 1, 2014.

Marking its 50th year, the one-of-a-kind competition serves as a platform to promote and support visual artists, writers, architects and composers of Cuban descent from across the globe. ***Impact and Legacy*** celebrates 50 years of the CINTAS Fellows Collection, which is composed of works donated by the fellows in appreciation of the fellowship award. The Collection has grown to be one of the largest bodies of Cuban art outside of Cuba and continues to grow each year with each new fellow. The jubilee exhibition recognizes its founding patron, Oscar B. Cintas; the accomplishments of CINTAS Fellows and honors Jorge M. Perez and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for their many contributions as art patrons and civic supporters.

Since 1963, the CINTAS Foundation has awarded more than 81 fellowships in creative writing. In addition to supporting Cuban artists, many early in their careers, the CINTAS Foundation also maintains a growing collection of works by past awardees and other esteemed Cuban artists. Past Creative Writing Fellows include Adrian Castro (recipient of fellowships and awards from the State of Florida, NewForms Florida, the Academy of American Poets and NALAC, and has had commissions from Miami Light Project and the Miami Art Museum), Achy Obejas (second novel, *Days of Awe*, was selected for the Los Angeles Times' Best Books of 2001 list. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Studs Terkel and the Peter Lisagor awards in journalism and the Lambda Literary Awards), Daniel Castro (a Dean's Graduate Fellow in Fiction who won the Schupes Prize for Excellence in Fiction and the Novella Prize from the Faulkner Society), José Kozer (2013 Pablo Neruda Ibero-American Poetry Prize), Margarita Engel (winner of the San Diego Book Award, a Newbery Honor award, a Pura Belpré Medal, an Americas Award and a Jane Addams Award), and Oscar Hijuelos (winner of a Breadloaf Writers Conference scholarship as well as grants from the Creative Artists Programs Service, the Ingram Merrill Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. His Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*, was made into a film starring Armand Assante and Antonio Banderas). MDC Museum of Art + Design will host a variety of events to showcase the works of this year's finalists, including **the Visual Arts Finalists exhibition**. **The awards announcement for Creative Writing will be made on Friday, October 10, at MDC's Freedom Tower.**

"The winner will receive a \$10,000 award and the opportunity to complete the project outlined in his or her proposal. While in recent years, the Fellowships in Architecture and Creative Writing have been awarded in alternating years, to mark the 50th jubilee, the competition will be opened in all four categories including architecture," said CINTAS Foundation Board President, Hortensia E. Sampedro. **Competition details and all program requirements and application forms can be found at www.cintasfoundation.org/index.php/fellowships.**

About the CINTAS Fellowship Program

The CINTAS Fellowship Program encourages creative development in architecture, literature, music composition and the visual arts. The Foundation was established with funds from the estate of Oscar B. CINTAS (1887-1957), the former Cuban ambassador to the United States, a prominent industrialist and patron of the arts. In June of 2011, the CINTAS Foundation entered into an extended loan to MDC's Museum of Art + Design of the CINTAS Fellows Collection, comprised of nearly 300 pieces by artists of Cuban descent living outside Cuba who have received prestigious CINTAS Fellowships, awarded since 1963. www.cintasfoundation.org.

About MDC's Museum of Art + Design

MDC Museum of Art + Design is Miami Dade College's flagship institution dedicated to the presentation and exhibition of visual art and design, located within the historic MDC Freedom Tower in downtown Miami. With more than 13,000 square feet of exhibition space, the Museum of Art + Design presents year-round exhibitions and educational programs, and is known for its presentation of exhibitions by emerging artists, designers, as well as major figures in modern, post-modern and contemporary art. With a mission to promote the appreciation and understanding of art and its role in society through direct engagement, original works of art, design, and related creative processes; the Museum provides residents and visitors access to unique cultural, historical, and educational exhibitions that enrich our community, while building and preserving its expansive permanent art collection. Available to the public five days a week, and as an admission FREE institution with a diversity of patrons and visitors, the MDC Museum of Art + Design is one of the largest and most accessible institutions in the South Florida area devoted to visual arts and design. More information can be found on the Museum & Galleries website: www.mdcmoad.org.

For more information about the CINTAS program at MDC Museum of Art + Design, please contact Jessica Brodsky at 305-237-7722, or jbrodsky@mdc.edu.

MDC Media-only contacts: Juan Mendieta, MDC director of communications, 305-237-7611, jmendiet@mdc.edu; Tere Estorino Florin, director of media relations, 305-237-3949, testorin@mdc.edu; Sue Arrowsmith, 305-237-3710, sue.arrowsmith@mdc.edu; or Roxana Romero, 305-237-7187, rromero3@mdc.edu.

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