



## **CINTAS Foundation Announces Competition Finalists of the 2017-18 CINTAS Knight Foundation Visual Arts Fellowship**

**Miami, Sept. 25, 2017 – The CINTAS Foundation** announces this year's finalists for the annual CINTAS Knight Foundation Visual Arts Fellowship Competition. A reception and awards ceremony will take place at 6pm. on Saturday, Oct. 14th, at the Coral Gables Museum. The awards will be announced promptly at 7pm.

An exhibition featuring works by each of the visual arts finalists will open at the Coral Gables Museum on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**CINTAS Knight Foundation Fellowship in the Visual Arts Finalists:** Pavel Acosta Proenza, Néstor Arenas, Rigoberto Díaz, Mari Claudia García Ruiz, Francisco Masó, Grethell Rasúa

The jury: Chana Budgazad Sheldon, Coco Fusco, Jacek Kolasinski

"We are extremely grateful to the Knight Foundation for their on-going support of the Visual Arts," said CINTAS Foundation Board President Victor Deupi. "Their extraordinary vision in supporting CINTAS Visual Artists allows for the continued evolution of this unique fellowship."

The competition, marking its 55<sup>th</sup> year, is open to painting, sculpture, installation art, photography, video and the media arts. The Fellowship includes a \$20,000 award to carry out the artist's project as submitted. The blue-ribbon jury is comprised of national and international jurors of standing.

"The CINTAS Foundation helps foster the next generation by providing recognition and funding to artists at a critical time in their professional development," said Victoria Rogers, vice president of arts for Knight Foundation.

The prestigious competition has recognized creative accomplishments by Cuban artists of the diaspora in the various artistic movements over the last five decades. It is unique in its depth and breadth and historic as well as artistic significance of a prolific and exceptional period in Cuban arts. This year's competition marks the first time that artists from the island have been included and able to apply.

Winners are invited to become part of the CINTAS Fellows Collection through their artistic donations to the one-of-a-kind collection of Cuban art unique in its representation of the increasingly important works of said artists and creative movements since 1963. It is also one of the largest bodies of Cuban art outside of Cuba.

### **About the CINTAS Fellowship Program**

The CINTAS Fellowship Program encourages creative development in architecture & design, creative writing, music composition and the visual arts. The CINTAS Foundation was established with funds from the estate of Oscar B. Cintas (1887-1957), former Cuban ambassador to the United States, a prominent industrialist and patron of the arts. In June 2011, the CINTAS Foundation entered into an extended loan to MDC's Museum of Art + Design of the CINTAS Fellows Collection. It is comprised of nearly 300 pieces by artists of Cuban descent who have received prestigious CINTAS Fellowships awarded since 1963. The Fellows range from Carmen Herrera to Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Maria Martinez-Cañas, Teresita Fernandez, Pulitzer Prize winner Oscar Hijuelos, multiple-Obie winner Maria Elena Fornes, architect Andres Duany, Latin Grammy finalist composer Tania Leon and many others. [www.cintasfoundation.org](http://www.cintasfoundation.org)

**For more information about the CINTAS program at MDC Museum of Art + Design, please contact Laurie Escobar, CINTAS Administrator, 305-237-7901, [lescobar@mdc.edu](mailto:lescobar@mdc.edu).**