



Miami Dade College's Museum of Art + Design and CINTAS Foundation Announce 2015 - 2016 Fellowship Recipients

Miami, Oct. 12, 2015 – **Miami Dade College's (MDC) Museum of Art + Design (MOAD)**, home of the CINTAS Fellows Collection, and the **CINTAS Foundation** recently announced this year's fellows for the annual CINTAS Foundation Fellowship competition at a special reception held at the college's iconic Freedom Tower. The competition awards a fellowship for each winner in four categories: visual arts, music composition, creative writing and architecture.

"Since 1963 the CINTAS Foundation has supported Cuban arts outside Cuba. Over 300 CINTAS Fellows have contributed nationally and internationally to the humanities," said Hortensia Sampedro, President of CINTAS Foundation. "CINTAS Fellows are found represented in all major museums, and important private and corporate collections, as well as recipients of Pulitzer, Guggenheim, NEA, Obie Awards, exhibited at the Venice Biennale, Rockefeller and Fulbright Residencies, Latin Grammy nominations and many, many more too numerous to list".

The Museum will be showcasing the visual arts finalists' works **through January 31, 2016**. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

This year's fellowship recipients are:

2015 – 2016 CINTAS Knight Foundation Award in Visual Arts: Rafael Domenech

Rafael Domenech was born in Havana, Cuba in 1989. He attended the San Alejandro National Academy of Fine Arts, in Cuba, where he was recognized for his achievements in contemporary art, including his participation in the 9th and 10th Biennial of Havana. After graduating in 2009 with high honors as sculptor, painter, and draftsman, he was accepted at Havana's prestigious Superior Institute of Fine Arts (ISA).

Domenech immigrated to the United States in 2010, to reunite with his mother who lived in West Palm Beach, Florida. He has had numerous exhibitions in group shows including Detras del Muro/Behind the Wall, 11th Havana Biennial, Havana City, Cuba; Walls of Artseen, Artseen, Miami; Rising Stars Exhibition, New World School of the Arts Gallery, Miami; Ya see leer, Arteamerica Art Fair, Miami; and League for Innovation, Miami Dade College Kendall Campus, Miami. Domenech recently graduated from New World School of the Arts with a BFA and as Summa cum laude and Valedictorian of his 2015 class.

Past visual arts fellows include Coco Fusco, Carmen Herrera, Guillermo Calzadilla, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Carlos Alfonzo, Teresita Fernandez, Anthony Goicolea, Jillian Mayer, Ernesto Oroza, photographers Andres Serrano and Maria Martinez-Canas, and sculptor Maria Elena Gonzalez.

2015 - 2016 CINTAS Foundation Brandon Fradd Award in Music Composition: Ivette Herryman

Ivette Herryman was born in Isla de la Juventud, Cuba in 1982. Herryman began to study piano at the age of eight. In 2006 she graduated from the Instituto Superior de Artes with a Bachelor's in Music where she then taught there for the next three years. While in Cuba, Herryman received several awards as a pianist and composer. One of her major achievements was to have a zarzuela – Cerca Del Rio recorded by Colibri productions in 2007 which was the first of its kind to ever be recorded in Cuba. Later in 2010 the recording won a Cubadisco award. In 2009 she was the artist in Residency at the Opera of El Salvador in Mexico where she was the pianist of their national choir. In 2011 she received an





apprenticeship to study a Masters in Music Composition at Baylor University in Texas where she finished with distinctions. In 2014 she began her doctorate in Music Composition from Michigan State University (MSU).

Herryman has composed for solo instruments, chamber groups, orchestra, wind ensemble, electronic media, children, church and film music and musical theaters. Her music has been read by the National Symphony Orchestra from Cuba, the MSU's Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony and has been performed in Cuba, Mexico, El Salvador, Spain and the US.

Past music fellows include Yalil Guerra, Fabian Almazan, Sergio Barroso, Armando Bayolo, Mario Bauza (known as the father of Afro-Cuban jazz), José Bernardo, Ailem Carvajal, Aldo Rafael Forte, Orlando Jacinto Garcia Julián Orbon, and Tania León.

2015 - 2016 CINTAS Foundation Award in Creative Writing: Carlos Aguilera

The Cuban poet, writer and cultural critic, Carlos A. Aguilera, (b.1970 in Havana) has been living in Frankfurt since August 2007. Aguilera had studied literature and published several books of poetry in Cuba by the time he received the David de Poesía award from the Cuban Writers' and Artists' Union (UNEAC) in 1995, followed by the Calendario de Poesía award. In 1997, he co-founded the magazine *Diáspora(s)*, which during its brief lifespan became the leading space for critical debate and alternative culture and an open platform for intellectuals and writers interested in publishing beyond Cuba's state-controlled media to the world beyond. Because the journal also published authors from outside Cuba who were not liked by the authorities, Aguilera was increasingly harassed.

Aguilera has forged intensive dialogue and exchanges with writers from the former Soviet Bloc. Influenced by the works of Hannah Arendt, Primo Levi and Elias Canetti, his writings reflect on life under totalitarianism, not only in Cuba but in China (home to his maternal ancestors). He is also part of a growing intellectual forum outside Cuba that has fashioned new critical forms of engagement and diasporic citizenship. Even as artists and writers envision a democratic process for the country, this generation of young Cuban intellectuals consider themselves to be on the left of the political spectrum, and they reject the totalitarian aims of any government, regardless of its ideology.

He has published several volumes of poetry, fiction, and essays while still in Cuba including *Retrato de A. Hopper y su esposa* (Cuba 1996) and *Das Kapital* (Cuba 1997). In exile Carlos Aguilera has published the collection of essays and poetry *Die Chinamaschine* (Graz 2004) and the novel *Teoría del alma china* (Mexico 2006; translated into German *Theorie der chinesischen Seele*, Leipzig 2007) – also translated into other languages such as French, English and Croatian. He was also the editor of several anthologies of Cuban poetry and prose. In Frankfurt Carlos Aguilera continued his widespread literary activities and had quite a number of public readings and discussions. He also wrote a play which was produced in a German theatre. He is now living in Prague, where he is teaching Spanish and literature.

Past creative writing fellows include Carmen Maria Machado, Daniel Castro, Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas, Adrian Castro, Lourdes Blanco, Antonio Benitez-Rojo, Alicia "Achy" Obejas, and Jesus Diaz.

2015-2016 CINTAS Foundation Award in Architecture: Carlos Alberto Fleitas

Carlos Alberto Fleitas is an Architect and Urban Designer with 22 years of professional experience in architecture, master planning and urban design. He has worked within a variety of global regions with AECOM in his 22 years of experience in the design and management of a variety of projects in the United States, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. His experience includes architectural design, urban design, master planning, interior design, project management and





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coordination for projects that include entertainment, hospitality, retail, office, mixed-use, institutional, multi-family and single-residential.

Fleitas is a member of the AIA and DOCOMONO INT. He has served on juries at several American universities and for professional architectural awards programs has lectured at several higher education institutions and has served as instructor and guest critic at The Cooper Union – The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, The Florida International University School of Architecture, The School of Architecture at the University of Miami and The Miami Dade College. As an architect and urban designer, Fleitas is committed to the preservation of the urban, architectural and cultural heritage of his native Cuba. He has lectured, exhibited and been published by international institutions, universities and museums. As a photographer and urban researcher. Last year, he published a book “Canto a MATANZAS”; dedicated to the historical urban fabric and architecture of his native city of Matanzas, Cuba.

Past architecture fellows include Luis Calzadilla, Jose Bernardo, Andres Martin Duany, and Tomas Luis Lopez-Gottardi.

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 17,000 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.

For more information about the exhibition, please call MDC’s Museum of Art + Design at 305-237-7710 or visit www.mdcmoad.org

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