



### **CINTAS FELLOW TERESITA FERNÁNDEZ APPOINTED TO SERVE ON U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ART**

**MIAMI – October 17, 2011** – Artist and past CINTAS Fellow Teresita Fernández has been appointed to serve on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, a federal panel that advises the President, Congress and governmental agencies on national matters of design and aesthetics, for a four-year term. President Barack Obama made [the announcement](#).

The seven-member panel plays a key role in shaping Washington’s architecture by approving the site and design of national memorials and museums as well as advising the U.S. Mint on the design of medals and coins. Past members include those who sculpted the statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial, and the landscaping at the National Mall, Jefferson Memorial and the White House Grounds.

“Teresita was one of the youngest artists to receive the CINTAS Fellowship, for visual arts in 1994, only two years after her graduation with her Masters of Fine Art in 1992,” said Hortensia E. Sampedro, president of the CINTAS Foundation. “It is gratifying to see the promise that Teresita showed at such an early stage in her career blossom into her creative body of work and such significant accomplishments. She is truly an inspiration to young artists of all nationalities and especially for other young Cuban artists.”

Based in New York, Fernández is an installation artist known for her large-scale sculptures. Her achievements include: a CINTAS Fellowship in 1994 - 1995, a Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation Fellowship, a 2005 MacArthur Foundation Fellow, a 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 1999 Louis Comfort Tiffany Biennial Award, and a National Endowment for the Arts Artist’s Grant.

Her work has been shown, including solo exhibitions, nationally and internationally at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Modern Art Museum of Ft. Worth, the Castello di Rivoli in Turin, Italy, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC, the Centro de Arte Contemporaneo in Malaga, Spain, and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia. In 2006, Teresita’s work formed part of four CINTAS women artists in “A Room of One’s Own,” curated by Elizabeth Cerejido and exhibited at the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Florida International University. In 2007 she became the youngest artist commissioned by the Seattle Art Museum, where her permanently installed work “Seattle Cloud Cover” allows visitors to walk under a covered skyway while viewing the city’s skyline through optically shifting multicolored glass.

Fernández is currently on the board of Artpace, a nonprofit, international artist's residency program. She received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Florida International University.

For more information, please visit [www.cintasfoundation.org](http://www.cintasfoundation.org).

### **About The Cintas Fellowships**

CINTAS fellowships acknowledge creative accomplishments and encourage the development of creative artists in architecture, literature, music composition and the visual arts, since 1963.

In June of 2011, the Cintas Foundation entered into an extended loan to MDC's Art Gallery System (AGS) 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. The collection is comprised of gifts made by the fellows to the foundation. More than 200 artists are represented in the collection through a wide variety of media including paintings, prints, photographs, drawings, films, sculptures and installation art. The vast scope of the collection reflects the heterogeneous nature of the artistic production of Cuban artists, spanning across various generations, and their significant aesthetic and historical contribution to modern and contemporary art.

Selections from the Cintas Fellows Collection will be on permanent display to the public for the first time at MDC's National Historic Landmark Freedom Tower opening on Thursday, October 27, 2011.

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