

For immediate release  
Media contact: Ailyn Mendoza  
305-348-3892 / ailyn.frostart@gmail.com

## **Seven Finalists Chosen for the 2009 Emilio Sanchez Award in the Visual Arts**

*The Frost Art Museum and Cintas Foundation Announce the Finalists*

**Miami, March 10, 2009** – The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University and the Cintas Foundation today announced seven finalists for the coveted *2009 Cintas Foundation Emilio Sanchez Award in the Visual Arts*. **Tania Bruguera, Ivan Toth Depeña, Carlos Estevez, Carlos Ignacio Gonzalez-Lang, Cristina Lei Rodriguez, Leyden Rodriguez- Casanova** and **Gladys Triana** were chosen from a field of 68 applicants.

The award carries a \$15,000 cash prize which is used by the winner to further his or her creative development. The award is generously funded by the Emilio Sanchez Foundation. In 2005, the Emilio Sanchez Foundation ([www.emiliosanchezfoundation.org](http://www.emiliosanchezfoundation.org)) endowed an award in the visual arts, through 2009, in honor of the late Cuban artist and Cintas Fellow Emilio Sanchez (1989 – 1990). This will be the fifth such award in the series of five donated by the Emilio Sanchez Foundation. It was first awarded in 2005 to **Christian Curiel**, in 2006 to **Glexis Novoa**, in 2007 to **Gean Moreno**, and in 2008 to **Ernesto Oroza**.

The 2009 jury for the fellowship award included **Elvis Fuentes**, Curator, Museo del Barrio, New York; **Rene Morales**, Associate Curator, Miami Art Museum, Miami; **Alma Ruiz**, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; **Robert Storr**, Dean of Yale University's School of Art, New Haven; **Gilbert Vicario**, Assistant Curator of Latin American and Latino Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

“Congratulations to the finalists, said Cintas Foundation president **Hortensia E. Sampedro**. “We had an exceptionally competitive field of applicants this year, and appreciate the skill this outstanding panel of judges brought to the task.”

The Cintas Foundation Fellowship Program was established in 1963 with funds from the estate of the late **Oscar B. Cintas**, (1887 – 1957) a former Cuban ambassador to the United States and a prominent industrialist and patron of the arts.

-more-

## **Emilio Sanchez Awards -- Page 2**

Since then more than 300 artists have been honored with the Cintas Fellowship. The only one of its kind in the nation, the program has honored some of the world's most talented Cuban artists, many at the start of their careers, who have gone on to play an influential role in the development of their disciplines.

Past visual arts fellows include Cundo Bermudez, Quisqueya Henriquez, Lydia Rubio, Gean Moreno, Baruj Salinas, Mario Petreina, Jose Chardiet, Luis Gispert, Maria Brito, Liset Castillo and many others. A complete history and listings of the fellows may be found in the Cintas Foundation web site at [www.cintasfoundation.org](http://www.cintasfoundation.org)

The Selection Program is administered by The Frost Art Museum at Florida International University and the Cintas Foundation. For more information, please visit [www.cintasfoundation.org](http://www.cintasfoundation.org) or [www.frostartmuseum.org](http://www.frostartmuseum.org)

**FIU**

