

For immediate release

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and International Center for the Arts of the Americas Announce Academic Award in 20th-Century Latin American and Latino Art

Named for Late MFAH Director Peter C. Marzio, Award will be Granted Each Year to a Graduate and an Undergraduate Student for an Outstanding Academic Paper Developed from the ICAA Documents Project

Houston, TX, January 20, 2012 – The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and its research institute for Latin American Art, the International Center for the Arts of the Americas (ICAA), have announced the establishment of The ICAA Peter C. Marzio Award for Outstanding Research in 20th-Century Latin American and Latino Art.

Named for the late, longtime director of the MFAH, who founded the ICAA in 2001, the award will recognize new scholarship in the field of 20th-century Latin American and Latino art. A prize of \$2,500 will be granted to a graduate student, and \$1,000 to an undergraduate student, who each produce outstanding academic papers based on the newly published primary-source materials available from the digital archive *Documents of 20th-Century Latin American and Latino Art* and its companion book series, *Critical Documents of 20th-Century Latin American and Latino Art*. The award was announced in Houston with the launch of the first phase of the digital archive and preview of its companion book series at the MFAH on Thursday, January 19.

“While the research phase of the Documents Project has been completed, with some 10,000 materials recovered, digitized and returned to their sources, the project’s future lies with those who will build new scholarship from it,” commented Mari Carmen Ramírez, Wortham Curator of Latin American Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and director, ICAA. “This award will do much to promote new pathways of research in Latin American and Latino art, and will encourage many young scholars to use the ICAA online database and the companion book series in their studies.”

The inaugural year award is generously underwritten by The Transart Foundation for Art and Anthropology, a private non profit organization based in Houston, supporting the creative process of contemporary artists and scholars, who integrate advanced and relevant social, anthropological or cultural research in their work.

Eligibility and submission requirements for the Peter C. Marzio Award

Any student enrolled in a graduate and/or undergraduate program in the U.S. or abroad is eligible to submit a paper for consideration. The paper must be based on the primary and critical materials available through the Documents Project digital archive, accessed at www.icaadocs.mfah.org, and the companion book series. Papers may be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese. The papers will be reviewed by an award committee composed of members of the Editorial Board of the Documents Project. The two selected papers will be published on the ICAA Documents Project website.

The deadline for 2012 submissions is July 1, 2012. For eligibility and application materials, please visit <http://icaadocs.mfah.org/icaadocs/en-us/publications/icaapetercmarzioaward.aspx>. The application form and an electronic copy of the essay should be submitted for consideration to Marcela C. Guerrero,

ICAA Research Coordinator, at mguerrero@mfah.org. Or, by regular mail, submit a hard copy postmarked no later than July 1, 2012, to PO Box 6826, Houston, Texas 77265-6826. Undergraduate students should submit a paper between 15 and 20 pages in length, excluding cover page, bibliography and appendices. Graduate students should submit a paper between 20 and 25 pages in length, excluding cover page, bibliography and appendices. Prospective candidates should follow *Chicago Manual of Style* for all formatting, including footnotes and bibliography. Papers should be double-spaced; Times New Roman Font, point size 12; should allow for one-inch margins; and should contain footnotes, not endnotes. All images should be in JPG format and must include captions. In addition, the ICAA Record ID must be provided for all documents accessed through the Documents Project's digital archive. Awards will be announced in September 2012.

About the Documents Project

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and its research institute, the International Center for the Arts of the Americas (ICAA), have just launched the first phase of a digital archive of some 10,000 primary-source materials related to 20th-century Latin American and Latino art, culled by hundreds of researchers based in 16 cities in the U.S. and throughout Latin America. The digital archive is available worldwide, free of charge, and is intended as a catalyst for the future of a field that has been notoriously lacking in accessible resources. The phased, multi-year launch begins with 2,500 documents from Argentina, Mexico and the American Midwest, capping the 10th-anniversary year for the Latin American program. Documents from other countries and communities will continue to be uploaded and made available. The digital archive is available at www.icaadocs.mfah.org.

A series of 13 books to be published over the next dozen years, *Critical Documents of 20th-Century Latin American and Latino Art*, accompanies the digital-archive initiative. Selections from the archive are translated into English and organized by theme, rather than country or chronology. The general, non-Spanish speaking reader will have access to Latin American primary-source materials in English, while the specialized reader can cross-reference the books with the archive, accessing both the original and the translated versions of the texts. Co-published by the MFAH and Yale University Press, the series is the most ambitious editorial venture of its kind. The first anthology is titled *Resisting Categories: Latin American and/or Latino?*, and consists of 179 selected documents with chapter introductions by Héctor Olea, Mari Carmen Ramírez and Tomás Ybarra-Frausto, and text introductions by Maria Gaztambide.

About Peter C. Marzio

Peter C. Marzio headed the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, from 1982 until his death, in 2010. As director, he led the museum through three decades of unprecedented growth, including, in 2001, the establishment of the Latin American Art department and its research institute, the International Center for the Arts of the Americas (ICAA). Both divisions, headed by Mari Carmen Ramirez, are today leaders in the field of 20th-century Latin American and Latino art. Over the past decade, the department has built a renowned collection, organized critically acclaimed exhibitions and produced award-winning publications. In keeping with Peter Marzio's abiding commitment to research and scholarship, the centerpiece of the ICAA's initiatives has been the development of *Documents of 20th-Century Latin American and Latino Art*, an unprecedented digital archive of some 10,000 primary-source materials related to 20th-century Latin American and Latino art. Dr. Marzio envisioned the archive as a catalyst for the future of the field, one that would inspire new generations of scholars worldwide.

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