

SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURAL CONSORTIUM ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2007 VISUAL & MEDIA ARTISTS FELLOWSHIPS

2008 SFCC Artist Fellowships Announced

MIAMI, FL - Thirteen fellowships have been awarded by the South Florida Cultural Consortium through its 2008 Visual and Media Artists Fellowship Program. The Consortium, an alliance of the arts councils of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Martin Counties, awarded the fellowships to five visual artists from Miami-Dade County, four from Broward County, two from Palm Beach County and two from Martin County. Fellowships were awarded at \$15,000 and \$7,500 levels. The \$15,000 fellowships are the largest such awards provided by local arts agencies in the United States. From Miami-Dade County, the recipients are: Marie Mennes (\$15,000); Jennifer Stark (\$15,000); Ivan Toth Depena (\$15,000); Michelle Weinberg (\$15,000); and Wendy Wischer (\$15,000). From Broward County, the recipients are Harumi Abe (\$7,500); Lou Anne Colodny (\$15,000); Janet Gold (\$15,000); and Robert Nathans (\$7,500). From Palm Beach County, the recipients are Dianne Arrieta (\$7,500) and Carol Prusa (\$7,500). From Martin County, the recipients are Paul Aho (\$7,500) and David Pollitt (\$7,500).

The recipients were selected during a two-tier panel process which included the participation of regional and national arts experts. Selection by the regional panel was totally anonymous, based solely on the quality of the artists' work as evidenced by digital images, slides or video/films submitted. The regional panel included: Ray Azcuy, 2007 Fellowship Recipient, Broward County; Yolanda Sanchez, Director, Fine Arts and Cultural Affairs, Miami International Airport, Miami-Dade County; Charles Stainback, Photography Curator, Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach County; Kitty Morgan, Independent Film Maker and Curator, Miami-Dade County; and Konstantia Kontaxis, Motion Pictures Program, University of Miami, Miami-Dade County. The regional panel forwarded their recommendations to the national panel, which was comprised of: Margarita Aguilar, Christie's Latin American Art Specialist, New York City; Valerie Cassel Oliver, Curator, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston; Bo Smith, Head of Film/Video and Concerts, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and Robert Zakanitch, Visual Artist, Brooklyn, New York. All four national judges participated in the final recommendations.

An exhibition featuring the works of the thirteen recipients will be presented at the Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale from July 12 to September 30, 2008. The South Florida Cultural Consortium Visual and Media Artists Fellowship Program for is a cooperative project funded in part with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, the Boards of County Commissioners of Broward, Miami-Dade, Martin and Monroe Counties, and the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

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