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CONTACT:

Kristin Guter, Vice President of Communications and Marketing,
kguiter@corcoran.org, (202) 639-1867
Rachel Cothran, Director of Public Relations,
rcothran@corcoran.org, (202) 639-1833

“TWO MUSEUMS, TWO NATIONS, ONE IDENTITY” EXHIBITION OPENS AT ART MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAS

Corcoran’s Muriel Hasbun Served as Curator and Curriculum Advisor

May 30–June 13, 2012

Opening Reception: Wednesday, May 30, 5 p.m.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Two Museums, Two Nations, One Identity* features photography, video, and collages by youth involved in an initiative linking teenagers in El Salvador and teens of Salvadoran heritage living in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The yearlong project of the same name culminates with simultaneous exhibitions at two museums—the Organization of American States’ Art Museum of the Americas (AMA) in Washington and the Museum of Art of El Salvador (MARTE) in El Salvador. **An opening reception will be held at the Art Museum of the Americas (201 18th St. NW) on Wednesday, May 30, at 5 p.m.**



Two Museums, Two Nations, One Identity explores themes of migration, bilingualism, community, family, and cultural heritage. The program and exhibition emphasize the museum as a place of learning and community-building.

Muriel Hasbun, chair of photography and associate professor at the Corcoran College of Art + Design, served as lead artist and curriculum advisor of the project. Hasbun led a group of 20 Corcoran BFA Photography and Photojournalism students, as well as graduate students in the Masters in New Media Photojournalism and Masters in Arts in Teaching programs, who mentored youth in the Columbia Heights neighborhood in weekly workshops. Student volunteers taught photography, audio, and video skills and engaged in a process of exploration and exchange with students in El Salvador. Participants communicated with one another via Edmodo, an online social media platform.

The program in El Salvador has taken place in Casas de la Cultura, government-administered centers that promote cultural and artistic activities and a strong sense of local heritage. In D.C., AMA drew from the Art + Media House of the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) in Columbia Heights, an organization serving low-income youth and families.

Catherine Armour, the Corcoran's provost and chief academic officer, stated, "This project is emblematic of the direction of and the future of the Corcoran, in placing us at the heart of the exchange of ideas in the international cultural community."

ABOUT "TWO MUSEUMS, TWO NATIONS, ONE IDENTITY"

Two Museums, Two Nations, One Identity is a project of Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad (MCCA), an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is administered in partnership with the American Association of Museums (AAM). Additional support provided by Furthermore and Nikon. For more information about MCCA, see <http://www.aam-us.org/mcca>.

ABOUT MURIEL HASBUN

Muriel Hasbun is Chair of Photography and Associate Professor at the Corcoran College of Art + Design. Her main areas of research and expertise are issues of identity, memory, and place as well as cultural exchange. Her Fulbright Scholar grant project of 2006, *Terruño: Detrás del telón/Backdrop: The Search for Home*, like many of her artistic projects, activates the space across borders and cultural divides with an interactive and relational approach. Further projects, such as *barquitos de papel/paper boats* and *Documented: The Community Blackboard*, engage communities in a dialogue about personal and collective memory through the creation of a collective archive of photographs, video, and family stories.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869. It was America's first dedicated art museum and today is Washington's largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's

Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Images:

Page one: Hayzel Serrano

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