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CORCORAN COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN “TWO MUSEUMS, TWO NATIONS, ONE IDENTITY” PROJECT *Corcoran’s Muriel Hasbun to Serve as Lead Artist and Curriculum Advisor*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design is proud to announce the College’s participation in **Two Museums, Two Nations, One Identity**. This project engages vulnerable youth in Washington, D.C. and El Salvador through learning and creative experiences, culminating in the spring of 2012 with exhibitions at two museums—the Organization of American States’ Art Museum of the Americas (AMA) in D.C. and the Museum of Art of El Salvador (MARTE).

Muriel Hasbun, chair of photography and associate professor at the Corcoran College of Art + Design, has been selected as the lead artist and curriculum advisor of the project. Professor Hasbun was chosen for her expertise as an artist and as an educator focused on issues of cultural identity and memory as well as promoting cultural exchange through art. She will lead a group of thirty 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 will mentor youth (many of Salvadoran or Latino descent) in the Columbia Heights neighborhood in workshops that take place twice a week during the 2011–12 academic year. These student volunteers will teach photography, audio, and video skills and engage in a process of exploration and exchange with students in El Salvador.

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. Having thirty students involved in the Columbia Heights community as



Muriel Hasbun. *barquitos de papel/paper boats*. Interactive video installation, American University Museum, 2008

photography mentors is an enriching and life-changing opportunity for our students and strengthens the community bonds the Corcoran has always had in Washington.”

In addition to the two exhibitions scheduled for May/June 2012, mid-project exhibitions will take place at the Corcoran’s Gallery 31 and White Halls during FotoWeek DC this November (thanks to generous in-kind support by Nikon) and at the Latin American Youth Center’s Art & Media House in D.C. in December 2011.

The program also features videoconferences with the youth at AMA and MARTE. For the first such event, to be held on October 15, 2011, youth and students will view selected works by Salvadoran artists in the collections of both museums. Professor Hasbun will give a talk about her own photo-based work and lead participants in making paper boats inscribed with their own identity and family history. Professor Hasbun and students will travel to El Salvador in March 2012 to meet their Salvadoran counterparts as part of her seminar and study-away course, “El Salvador: International Experience, Transnational Identity.”

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). 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.



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