

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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THE CORCORAN WELCOMES VISITING ARTIST PABLO ORTIZ MONASTERIO
The first of the College's Visiting Artists through the Pittman Study Away Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design, in partnership with the Embassy of Mexico and its Cultural Institute**, is proud to welcome **Pablo Ortiz Monasterio**, the first of the College's Visiting Artists from Mexico organized through the Corcoran's Pittman Study Away Program.

“The Corcoran recognizes its central position and responsibility as a leader in international arts education through the College and its exhibitions through the Gallery,” said Catherine Armour, provost, Corcoran College of Art + Design. “Our capital city is a model of the cultural richness and diversity that we reflect in our programming. It is a pleasure to welcome our first Visiting Artist organized through the Pittman Study Away Program, Pablo Ortiz Monasterio, and to introduce him to our colleagues, students, and public.”

Monasterio (b. 1952 in Mexico City) is a photographer, editor, curator, publisher, and educator whose latest work, *White Mountain*, explores the home of the indigenous pre-Columbian Zapotec civilization. Monasterio has had solo exhibitions in Museo de Arte Moderno, Centro de la Imagen, and Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico, and in museums and galleries around the world. In 2001, he was the curator of the PhotoEspaña festival in Madrid.

Monasterio is the editor of *Frida Kahlo: Her Photos*, a collection of photographs that Kahlo acquired throughout her life. His work, *La última ciudad (The Last City, 1996)*, was named the best photographic book prize of the 1998 Photographic Spring Festival in Barcelona, and the 1997 Gold Eye of the Festival Des Trois Continents in Nantes, France. He has been a juror for World Press Photo and has imparted photography and editing workshops in many countries.



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While in Washington, D.C. from October 15 to November 15, 2011, Monasterio will observe classes and critique students' work in the Corcoran's Photography department, the Masters in New Media Photojournalism program, and more. On **Wednesday, November 9, 2011**, Monasterio will give a **public lecture** with Chair of Photography Muriel Hasbun on the topic of their year-long collaborative project *Conversación*. This lecture is part of the Corcoran's FotoWeek DC Noon Lecture Series and co-sponsored with the Mexican Cultural Institute. Monasterio will also serve as a Reviewer during the **FotoWeek DC Portfolio Reviews** at the Corcoran on **November 12, 2011**.

The exhibition corresponding to the November 9 public lecture, "Conversación: Photo Works by Muriel Hasbun and Pablo Ortiz Monasterio" will be on display at the Mexican Cultural Institute from November 10 through February 4, 2012. Presented as part of FotoWeekDC, the exhibition will highlight the year-long visual exchange of looking and response that flourished between the two photographers, letting us in on their conversation about Mexico, photographic discourse, and friendship.

The intent of the Corcoran College of Art + Design's Pittman Study Away Program is to promote artistic and cultural exchanges through education in the arts. The Pittman Program was initiated through the generosity and vision of our patrons, Robert and Veronique Pittman, and officially launched in January of 2009. This program is a unique collaboration between the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, and one of its satellite campuses called the El Nigromante Cultural Center; Ignacio Ramirez-Escuela de Bellas Artes, located in historic San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. The vision behind this collaboration is to develop programs in which there is a full reciprocal exchange between students, faculty, visiting artist's and exhibitions to deepen our collective appreciation and understanding of each other's cultures, histories and futures. With the Pittman Study Away Program, the Corcoran will expand the academic setting well beyond the classroom to a seventeenth-century Spanish Colonial mining town, San Miguel de Allende, one of Mexico's most beautiful cities, which has a unique tradition of attracting artists and art students from around the world. In this vibrant community, Corcoran students will become fully immersed in historic and contemporary art forms, architecture and culture.

ABOUT THE MEXICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

Since its establishment as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization in 1990, the Mexican Cultural Institute has been committed to fostering the relationship between Mexico and the United States by sharing Mexico's vibrant cultural past and present with visitors and residents of Washington, DC. This is achieved by presenting diverse, ongoing cultural programs at the historic mansion that houses the Institute and at venues throughout the area, including art exhibitions, performing arts presentations, film festivals, literary readings, book presentations, academic conferences and an artist-in-residence program, among others.

Over the past two decades, the Institute has developed a close relationship with cultural institutions in the nation's capital, such as the Smithsonian Institution, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the National Gallery of Art, and the Library of Congress, among others and, in mutual collaboration, it has developed comprehensive artistic and cultural programs aimed at fostering understanding between our nations. For more information please visit instituteofmexicodc.org.

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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