

Miami artist Claudio Castillo wins MoLAA awards in the category of Video and Photography

Miami Florida (October 27, 2008)– Miami artist Claudio Castillo is the recipient of The Museum of Latin American Art's (MOLAA) third annual MOLAA Awards in the category of Video and Photography. The MoLAA Awards is an invitational juried art competition for emerging and mid-career contemporary Latin American artists.

The winning piece, *Virgin Apparition (Aparición de la Virgen de la Caridad)*, is a watercolor painting that has been manipulated by animation and software giving the portrait an ethereal effect, eerily appearing and disappearing and transforming continually before the viewer's eyes. The watercolor image of the Virgin and landscape has been digitized and split into six layers; each layer is animated independently of the others and then re-composited with the others in a random non-linear sequence, offering an infinite number of possible compositions of the original piece. The background image has one chance of repetition in 8 trillion years, and the iconic image of the Virgen de la Caridad appears and disappears as motion is detected in front of the art work.

Claudio Castillo is a watercolor artist and animator who has been working with computers, video and film since 1980. Fascinated with integrating the two different media, Castillo has on numerous occasions fused the dreamy, poetic qualities of watercolor painting with the endless possibilities of the digital world to create a form of "living painting" that is constantly moving and changing.

The MOLAA Awards were established by the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California to further encourage the support of Latin American artists in the United States. The signature event and prestigious awards offer the artists greater exposure to new audiences and the cash awards are to assist the artists further develop their artistic careers. The award winning works of art become a part of the MOLAA Permanent Collection.