

LLILAS to Host Exhibit by Acclaimed Artist Muriel Hasbun

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LLILAS will host “Archive and Memory” by acclaimed artist Muriel Hasbun, Feb. 22–March 30, 2012. The photo-based exhibit explores the relationship between past and present and lives at the intersection of personal memory and collective history.

Through the gathering and close scrutiny of a dispersed family archive, Hasbun has stitched together fragments into elusive narratives and reconstructed a world lost to exile, assimilation, and genocide. Her focus on cultural identity and memory resonates with the 2012 Lozano Long Conference, *Central Americans and the Latino/a Landscape: New Configurations of Latino/a America*, which opens with the exhibit on February 22. *Archive and Memory* creates a dialogue between images from three collections: “Santos y sombras/Saints and Shadows,” which explores migration and Central American identity; “X post facto (équis anónimo),” which is culled from an archive of over 1,000 X-rays and ponders the effect of trauma on the body; and “Yo Viajo,” an interactive installation of family photos juxtaposed with dramatic scenes from El Salvador’s civil war.

Hasbun, currently Chair of Photography and Associate Professor at the Corcoran College of Art + Design (Washington, DC), is the recipient of numerous distinctions, including being the lead artist for a transnational project funded by the “Museums & Community Collaborations Abroad” of the U.S. Department of State and the American Association of Museums, a Fulbright Scholar, and the recipient

of a Escuela de Bellas Artes Artist in Residence in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Hasbun’s photo-based work has been internationally exhibited, including venues such as the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the 50th Venice Biennale, the Centro de la Imagen in Mexico City, and the Musée de l’Arles Antique at the 29ème Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie d’Arles.

According to Juliet Hooker, Associate Director of LLILAS, “Muriel Hasbun’s compelling and thought-provoking art perfectly embodies the theme of the 2012 Lozano Long Conference on the complexities of Central American identities within the U.S. Latino landscape and beyond. Hasbun’s work is a deep meditation on the nature of identity that goes beyond her Central America-based subjects to explore universal themes. We are thrilled to be able to host the exhibit, which is a continuation of a commitment that we have made at LLILAS to combine scholarly programming with artistic/creative work that addresses similar questions. The exhibit, panels, and talks by dozens of distinguished scholars, graduate students, artists/performers, and public officials who are coming together from the U.S. and internationally for this interdisciplinary conference all speak in different ways to the importance of Latinos to U.S. social, political, and cultural life and to the growing visibility of Central Americans within that group.”

Through an intergenerational, transnational, and transcultural lens, Hasbun creates a space for dialogue where individual and collective memory spark new questions about identity and place. LLILAS invites members of the campus and local community to view Hasbun’s work and to participate in “Yo Viajo,” a collaborative space for dialogue about identity and place, where viewers can share photographs and other documents to create a collective journey across borders, cultures, and generations.

Location: LLILAS, SRH 1, 3rd floor

Opening Reception: Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

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