Media Contact:
Felicia Horton
(773) 821-4976
(708) 275-3359
f-horton@csu.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President's Gallery exhibition launches Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at Chicago State University

CHICAGO – CSU kicks off the annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration with a visual art exhibition, *Through the Labyrinth*, featuring two dynamic Chicago-based artists from the Latino Diaspora of Mexican descent. Judithe Hernández and Sergio Gómez will showcase their lush and edgy work from September 14 through November 6, 2009 on the Chicago State University (CSU) campus located at 9501 S. King Drive in the President's Gallery on the third floor of the Cook Administration Building. The President's Gallery hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

“Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor has demonstrated that excellence is not bound by ethnicity or gender. In this national climate, artists Hernández and Gómez are perfect choices for our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month at CSU,” said Joyce Owens, curator, the Department of Art and Design. "Judithe Hernández and Sergio Gómez are artist-activists and share the commonality of their ethnic heritage. Beyond that, their experiences have been quite different. At the height of their artistic achievement, their paths cross in this two-person collaboration,” said Owens.

Internationally known artist, Judithe Hernández, will showcase her work that is richly dedicated to representing the Latino culture. "Like so many Chicano artists, I have drawn from the wealth of my cultural inheritance to describe visually who we are, what we value, and how we define beauty, and to assert the belief that the artist as citizen has the responsibility to give voice to the issues affecting the disenfranchised of society," said Hernández. He has completed over 10 murals, exhibited in museums across the country and around the world.

Chicago based artist Sergio Gómez's work spotlights human and spiritual identity. "The human figure is the most important element in my work," said Gomez. "The figure exists as an anonymous representation of the self. For the most part, the figure dominates the work and it is depicted as a shadow, aura, ghost, or energy light. I am more interested in the human and universal appeal of the figure. Objects and places are not very important and rarely have a dominant part in the work, or they are absent all together. The figures exist in condensed fields of color and richly layered colored textures that sometimes resemble nature forms. It is unknown whether the human figures are indoors or outdoors, perceived or remembered, alive or dead. I assume that in my artwork, presence overrides identity," he added. Gómez is the curator and founder of 33 Collective Gallery and director of Visual Art Today, an online space for curated exhibitions of contemporary art. Sergio Gómez is a full-time art faculty in the Art/Design Department at South Suburban College. He is also advisor for SOLES (Student Organization for Latino Empowerment and Success).

Both artists will speak about their work at the opening reception on September 16, 2009 from 2 until 4 p.m. in the President’s Gallery on the third floor of the Cook Administration Building. The reception is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call (773) 995-3984 or (773) 995-3905.