



**PATRICIA LASPINO HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO THE 2011
SMITHSONIAN'S ARTIST RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Thomas Mirenda, Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution's Natural History Museum, and Stephen Allee of the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery co-nominated artist, Patricia Laspino for the 2011 Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship Program.

The program offers visual artists the opportunity to spend two to three months working with Smithsonian experts and collections in one or more of the Smithsonian Institution's 19 museums, galleries, research centers. Nominations for the program were solicited from Smithsonian art curators and research staff, international art curators and scholars, and only ten artists are chosen to participate worldwide each year. The SARF program is unique among artist residency programs, offering a dynamic research environment in which to investigate the objects, discoveries, and historical events that inspire creative work. The program brings artists together with experts in a variety of disciplines at Smithsonian museums and research centers in Washington, DC, other parts of the U.S. and overseas, to explore cross-disciplinary connections between art, history, culture and science.

The alliance between Thomas Mirenda, Stephen Allee, the Smithsonian Institution and Patricia Laspino has provided a new platform for the Patricia to conduct intensive research, to investigate and to examine the orchid's colorful mix of myth and history which bridges art and science through the use of the Smithsonian's vast holdings and scholars.

**For further information, please contact Andrew Laspino at 203-315-1900 or
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