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#### For Immediate Release

## GSU Hosts Third Annual Arts Fest

University Park, IL, September 30, 2009 – Governors State University is hosting the third annual Arts Fest on Wednesday, October 14. Arts Fest is a creative and festive celebration of the arts that embraces both the creative soul and the imaginative mind. Interactive workshops taught by art, English, and media communications faculty and special presentations and exhibits invite attendees to tap into their creative muse and learn more about the arts.

Two special presentations enhance Arts Fest this year. GSU will host a Distinguished Lecture by Icelandic artist Steinunn Thorarinsdottir, on October 14, from 5 to 6 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. Thorarinsdottir will discuss her work, including "Horizons," which is currently on exhibit in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. The work consists of twelve "ungendered" figures cast in iron. Each figure features an insert of polished glass.

The Visual Arts Gallery will host an exhibition of the work of Chicago artist, Gabriel Villa. The exhibit will remain open to the public through October 23.

Arts Fest features hands on workshop on mosaics, photography, digital filmmaking, t-shirt printing, creating with clay, and printmaking. A cooperative mural production will include the creative efforts of anyone who wishes to add their artistic touches to the large canvas.

Mini-seminars offered throughout the afternoon include an art history roundtable discussion, a series of exercises to develop creativity, and several "Two to See" presentations. "Two to See" are short discussions providing reviews of two of the sculptures in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. The 26-piece outdoor sculpture park is on the grounds of Governors State University. Workshops and seminars will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Art professors will be available to answer questions about the graduate and undergraduate degree programs in art and fine art at GSU. Portfolio reviews, a prerequisite for admission into both the new Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art program and the Master of Arts in Art program, will also be offered to prospective students who wish an objective and supportive review of their work.

"Arts Fest gives the university the chance to share our wonderful art resources and creativity with the community. We are inviting everyone to join us for the day and learn how art is created and artistic skills are nurtured and developed," explained Dr. James Howley, Chair of the Division of Liberal Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences. "We hope that our visitors will find the artist in themselves as they explore the world of artistic creation. This is a wonderful event for young artists, families, and the community."

ArtsFest will conclude with an open reception on October 14, at 6 p.m., in E-Lounge, adjacent to the Visual Arts Gallery.

Art Fest is free and open to the public. Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL. For more information, call (708) 235-3956 or visit [www.govst.edu/cas](http://www.govst.edu/cas).