

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

| *Caribbean Literary Studies and the Otto Richter Library Digital Media Initiative:
Celebrating Five Years of Electronic Scholarship*

Monday, October 13, 2008, 3:30pm

*College of Arts and Sciences Gallery
Wesley Foundation Building, University of Miami
1210 Stanford Drive, Coral Gables, FL*

CORAL GABLES, MIAMI -- In honor of the ongoing successful partnership between the University of Miami's Caribbean Literary Studies (CLS) and Otto Richter Library's Digital Media Services (DMS), CLS and DMS will host an event to celebrate two collaborative initiatives—the 5th Anniversary Issue of the electronic journal *Anthurium* and the launch of a Caribbean visual arts website: *As Far as the Eye/I Can See: Caribbean Art and Visual Culture*. The event will feature a lecture by cultural critic Annie Paul (University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica). She is head of the Publications Section at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies and the Associate Editor of *Small Axe*, managing editor of the journal *Social and Economic Studies* and associate editor of the Cultures and Globalization Series, Sage, London. Ms. Paul is also the recipient of a grant from the Prince Claus Fund (Netherlands) in support of her book project, "Suitable Subjects: Visual Art and Popular Culture in Postcolonial Jamaica." Her talk, *Stars Are Born: Entertainment Report (ER) as an Archive of Jamaican Popular Culture*, will analyze *Entertainment Report (ER)*, Jamaica's first television show to showcase the country's renegade popular culture of dancehall. She will discuss how media attention was instrumental in the production of counter-cultural celebrities and in the shaping of mainstream identity and subjectivity in Jamaica.

Anthurium celebrates its 5th Anniversary year with a special issue of selected papers and interviews from the *Archaeologies of Black Memory* Symposium and Seminar hosted at the University of Miami by the Caribbean Literary Studies Program and the Small Axe Collective in June 2007. With a grant from the Ford Foundation the editors of these two prominent journals in Caribbean and African Diaspora Studies, *Small Axe* (David Scott, Columbia University, Department of Anthropology) and *Anthurium* (Sandra Paquet and Patricia Saunders, University of Miami, Department of English), designed a multi-disciplinary conference that explored the relationships between archive, collective memory and cultural criticism in African Diaspora Studies. The publication of these essays marks an important step in collaborative projects between academic journals and information specialists as they work towards archiving and digitizing important research materials on African Diaspora Studies.

The Caribbean visual arts website, *As Far As the Eye/I Can See*, is made possible by a grant from the University of Miami Libraries Digital Media Fellowship. The website features the works of a number of locally and internationally based artists, galleries and research institutions whose artistic productions and collections range from film to photography, painting, music videos, and digital art. The interactive website introduces students and researchers to art and visual culture (largely, but not exclusively) from the Caribbean and does so through the eyes and words of the artists themselves. There are interviews with the artists as well as a range of images and conversations about their media, craft and the social issues represented in their work. The website features art galleries here in Miami as well as and research institutions across the Atlantic, all engaged in supporting the work of

artists, art criticism, visual culture and archiving the visual cultures in the Caribbean region and the African Diaspora.

This event is open to the public and is scheduled for Monday, October 13, 2008 at 3:30pm on the University of Miami campus, at the Wellesley Center in the College of Arts & Sciences Gallery.

For more information, please contact Michelle Ramlagan at m.ramlagan@miami.edu or 305. 284. 3829 or Caribbean Literary Studies at caribbeanlit.english@miami.edu.