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SEATTLE, May 20, 2011-- Artist Trust awards Seattle artist, Tatiana Garmendia, its coveted Artist Fellowship. Garmendia, whose mixed media work synthesizes formal concerns and a humanist engagement with history, is noted for her existential meditations on national and private histories. In her latest series, the artist poses veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as different characters in Michelangelo's masterpiece, The Last Judgment.

Quotes from various pop songs and war movies weave in and out of her complex compositions and function like thought bubbles. "I think of these pop references as a kind of Eternal Return, in which the Sacred intrudes upon our world with its archetypes and mythic heroes. These songs and movies shape our notions of heroism as well as the crude realities of war," says the artist, pointing to a six foot drawing of a marine with an American flag unfurling behind him. Above him, lyrics from a song by The Chemical Brothers form a lament.

"Artist Trust Fellowships recognize Washington State artists of exceptional talent, demonstrated ability, professional achievement and continuing dedication to an artistic discipline. Fellowship recipients receive a cash award of \$7,500," says Miguel Guillen, Artist Trust's program manager. Two years after its founding in 1988, Artist Trust began providing Washington state artists direct support through cash grants. Grants provide artists with the means to explore their creative paths and enrich our cultural legacy.

Tatiana Garmendia's work can be accessed at her website:

<http://www.tatianagarmendia.com>

A short video explains the motivation behind The Last Judgment series:

http://www.tatianagarmendia.com/Tatiana_Garmendia_Fine_Artist/Movie.html

High quality jpegs available upon request.

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