



## VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### What happens when a physicist and artist collide?

*Art inspired by the Nobel prize-winning discovery of "the God particle" at the CERN unites the worlds of art and science.*

Pinecrest, FL – Art and science “collide” when artist Xavier Cortada and FIU Physicist Pete Markowitz come together for an intimate talk about their work. The event takes place three days after the Museum at Prairefire in Kansas City launches the In Search of the Higgs boson exhibition featuring large reprints of the famed banners by Mr. Cortada, which depict the five search strategies scientists used to make the Nobel prize-winning discovery of the Higgs boson particle.

Join us Sunday, September 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Pinecrest Gardens Historical Entrance Building, 11000 Red Road for this intimate gathering where visitors can talk to the artist and physicist about their work.

Smaller replicas of the banners will be on display so that visitors can see them and understand what happens when an artist and physicist “collide.” The original banners are on permanent on display at CERN, the world’s largest particle physics research center, in Geneva, Switzerland, where the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) resides.

“Science is my muse,” Mr. Cortada said. “The detection of the Higgs boson was intricate and multilayered, and so are the artworks I created. Stained glass references the LHC as a modern-day cathedral that helps us understand the universe and shape our new worldview. The oil painting technique honors those who came before us, the repetition of motifs across the five works celebrates internationalism and rendering the work as ‘banners’ marks this as a monumental event.”

Nicknamed “the God particle,” the Higgs boson imbues all other particles with mass. Its discovery in mid-2012, half a century after it was first hypothesized, culminated the work of 182 universities and institutes in 42 countries. Identifying the Higgs required the most complex machine ever built, the Large Hadron Collider.

Interview with the artist and/or physicist, high-resolution photos and video available upon request.

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## **Xavier Cortada**

Xavier Cortada's science art practice is oriented toward social engagement and the environment. At CERN, Cortada worked with physicist Pete Markowitz to develop a site-specific art installation capturing the five search strategies used to discover the Higgs boson particle. The five giant banners hang at the location (more than 300 feet below ground) where the particle was discovered.

Mr. Cortada often collaborates with scientists in his art-making, and has worked with groups globally to produce numerous joint art projects, including environmental installations at the North Pole and South Pole, peace murals in Cyprus and Northern Ireland, child welfare murals in Bolivia and Panama, AIDS murals in Switzerland and South Africa and eco-art projects in Taiwan and Holland.

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