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P.S.1

EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

Santiago Sierra: *Person Remunerated for a Period of 360 Consecutive Hours*

September 17 - November 2000

(Long Island City, NY, August 17, 2000) -- P.S.1 is pleased to present ***Person Remunerated for a Period of 360 Consecutive Hours*** a major new work by young Mexico City-based artist **Santiago Sierra**. Born in Madrid in 1966, his work spans performance, installation, photography, and video.

Sierra's harsh and poetic statements focus on the economic and power relations of today's post-colonial diasporic world. They reveal the pain and division that contemporary conditions engender and foster. Central to his work is a concern with the repetitive routines and the exchange value of labor. As a result, Sierra's work presents absurd and monotonous activities in the gallery setting. Functioning on both a literal and a symbolic level, Sierra's socially engaged work follows the tradition of *Arte Povera* and the process artists from the 1970s.

Sierra's past works have included the disassembly of a truck piece by piece only to re-assemble it in a gallery. In another work, the artist ignited a gallery with gasoline on its inaugural night. Sierra has hired laborers to perform fruitless tasks such as pushing enormous cement blocks around a gallery, and simply sitting in a cardboard box throughout an entire working day.

For P.S.1, the artist has designed a project that is a living metaphor for confinement, incarceration, and the negotiation that occurs around and across borders. A brick wall diagonally cuts across P.S.1's 2nd floor gallery. Behind the wall is a person who has been hired by the artist to live there for 15 days, 24 hours a day (September 17 – October 1, 2000) without having any further instructions or duties. P.S.1 staff slides food under a narrow opening at the base of the wall. The person generally can not be seen by the audience but may relate to the "other side" in any way he/she chooses through the small opening in the wall.

Person Remunerated for a Period of 360 Consecutive Hours is curated by P.S.1 Senior Curator Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, and is supported in part by the Mexican Cultural Institute, New York.

This project is organized in conjunction with other events commemorating the 190th Anniversary of Mexican Independence.

This year, exhibitions of Santiago Sierra's work will take place at Kunst Werke, Berlin, Germany (opens September 30); The Pusan Metropolitan Museum of Art, Korea (opens October 3); San

Juan Warehouse Project, Puerto Rico (opens October 10); The Havana Biennial, Cuba (opens November 8); Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain (opens December).

Around 1984: A Look at Art in the Eighties; Volume: Bed of Sound; Max Neuhaus: Drawings; as well as many other projects and installations, will continue throughout September.

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Background: P.S.1 was founded in 1971 by Alanna Heiss as The Institute of Art and Urban Resources Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the transformation of abandoned and underutilized buildings in New York City into exhibition, performance, and studio spaces for artists. The Center now an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art operates two internationally acclaimed spaces for contemporary art: P.S.1 in Long Island City and The Clocktower Gallery in Tribeca, both of which contain museum-quality galleries and extensive studio facilities for the National and International Studio Program. P.S.1 is one of the largest and oldest arts organization in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Recognized as a defining force of the alternative space movement, P.S.1 stands out from major arts institutions in its cutting edge approach to exhibitions and direct involvement of artists within a scholarly framework. P.S.1 acts as an intermediary between the artist and its audience. Functioning as a living and active meeting place for the general public, P.S.1 is a catalyst for ideas, discourses and new trends in contemporary art. With its educational programs, P.S.1 assists the public in understanding art and provides the tools to appreciate contemporary art and its practices.

Funding: P.S.1 receives annual support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs towards operating costs. Programs of P.S.1 are supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Office of the President of the Borough of Queens, The Council of New York City, the P.S.1 Board of Directors, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by foundations, corporate and individual contributions, membership and admission donations.

Directions: P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located just across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan, at the intersection of Jackson and 46th Avenues, in Long Island City. It is easily accessible by bus and subway.
Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or F to 23 Street-Ely Avenue; the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. They may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours and Admission: P.S.1 is open from noon to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.
$5.00 suggested donation, $2.00 for students and senior citizens; members free.

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