

NEWS RELEASE

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**IMPORTANT PIECE OF NEW YORK-LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL
HERITAGE RETURNS TO VIEW****The New School Restores Historic Mural by Ecuadorian Artist Camilo Egas; Highlights Impact of
Latin American Artists in Early 20th Century New York**

WHAT: The New School unveils the recent restoration of one of its historic murals, Camilo Egas' "Ecuadorian Festival" from the early 1930s. The 17-foot-long mural was commissioned by The New School, alongside works by José Clemente Orozco and Thomas Hart Benton, for its first building, an International Style landmark by Joseph Urban on West 12th Street. Egas (1889-1962) was an Ecuadorian artist and educator who served as the first Director of the Fine Arts department at The New School. The mural is an important piece of New York's cultural heritage, and highlights the impact of Latin American artists in New York in the early 20th century.

WHEN: Wednesday, July 13, 11 am

WHERE: The Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, Parsons The New School for Design
2 West 13th Street at Fifth Avenue

BACKGROUND:

"Ecuadorian Festival" was created for the entrance to the university's Martha Graham dance studio, and received positive critical reviews. When initially asked about the subject, Egas stated that his intention was to depict a celebratory moment of a generic indigenous dance festival, and focused solely on the theme of cultural identity. The mural can be seen, however, in context of a larger avant-garde movement that blended a radical social realism with Pan-American Indigenismo—a movement that Egas is credited with founding in Ecuador alongside artist Oswaldo Guayasamin. Recent scholarship and various museum exhibitions on the impact of Latin American artists in New York during the early twentieth century have resuscitated Camilo Egas' career and placed him in the context of a greater global discussion on modernism and contemporary art. After many years out of public view, the mural has been cleaned and restored, and is being displayed as part of (re)collection, an exhibition at the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center (SJDC) at Parsons The New School for Design. For more information, visit www.newschool.edu/sjdc.