



MUSEO ALAMEDA MEDIA ROLL-OUT INAUGURAL 2007 SEASON CURATOR AND ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

CURATORS

HENRY CANALES ESTRADA - Guest Curator, *Cantos del Pueblo*

Henry C. Estrada, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs for the Smithsonian Latino Center, serves as an advocate for Smithsonian Latino/Latin American exhibitions, public programs and collecting initiatives. Since 2003, Estrada has developed a variety of exhibitions, lectures and symposia, family programs, concerts and collecting initiatives that have increased the interpretation and representation of Latino experiences and contributions to history, science, culture, art, society and the humanities at the Smithsonian. Estrada led the organization of the exhibition projects *Our Journeys/Our Stories: Portraits of Latino Achievement*, *Colombia at the Smithsonian: The Colombian Presence in the Collections of the Smithsonian Institution* and is organizing an exhibition of Smithsonian Mexican collections at the Smithsonian International Gallery for Hispanic Heritage Month 2007. As the Center's liaison for the Smithsonian Affiliations Program, Estrada develops external support for Latino programming initiatives, creating partnerships and collaborations between internal and external entities that broaden the Smithsonian audience base and increase a Smithsonian presence in local and national Latino communities. He served on the Latino Art Acquisitions Advisory Committee of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and is on the National Advisory Board of "A Ver: Revisioning Art History," a pan-Latino artist monograph book series that is a project of the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center.

From 2000 to 2003, Estrada was the curator at the Alameda National Center for Latino Arts and Culture, a Smithsonian affiliate in San Antonio, Texas. He is an alumnus of the 1997 Smithsonian Institution Latino Graduate Training Seminar and participated in fellowships at the Smithsonian Archives of American Art and National Museum of American History. While living in New York in 1999, Estrada co-organized the exhibitions *Anaída Hernández: Illegal Games* at The New Museum of Contemporary Art and *Pressing the Point: Parallel Expressions in the Graphic Arts of the Chicano and*

Puerto Rican Movements (catalogue) at El Museo del Barrio in New York City. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin (Bachelor's degree, History of Art), and the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York (Master's degree, Curatorial Studies).

DR. TOMÁS YBARRA-FRAUSTO - Guest Curator, Palace of Dreams: The Alameda Theater

Dr. Tomás Ybarra-Frausto holds a Ph.D in Literature from the University of Washington. He recently retired as the Associate Director of Creativity and Culture at the Rockefeller Foundation. Prior to joining the Rockefeller Foundation he was a tenured professor in Spanish and Portuguese at Stanford University.

In 1998, Dr. Ybarra-Frausto was awarded the Joseph Henry medal by the Smithsonian Institution for "exemplary contributions" to the institution. The citation noted that as a professor, scholar and foundation executive, Dr. Ybarra-Frausto was devoted to "encouraging diverse communities in the United States to better understand and appreciate each other's art and culture, values and traditions."

Dr. Ybarra-Frausto donated his collections of Mexican and Chicano prints to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art and he donated his archives pertaining to the Chicano movement to the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art.

Dr. Ybarra-Frausto chaired the Smithsonian Council as well as the Latino Oversight Committee. He was a member of the National Museum of American History's Latino Initiative Advisory Board and an advisor to the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

Dr. Ybarra-Frausto has written and published extensively on Latin America and U.S. Latino Culture. Currently, Dr. Ybarra-Frausto serves on the Board of the Smithsonian Latino Center, the Board of the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago and the Fund for U.S./Mexico Culture.

JUAN TEJEDA - Guest Curator, *Conjunto*

Juan Tejeda is a musician, writer, arts administrator and educator. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Chicano Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and his Master of Arts degree in Bicultural Studies from the University of Texas at San Antonio. For eighteen years (1980-1998), he was the Xicano Music Program Director for the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center where he created the internationally renowned Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio and directed it during its first seventeen years and created and implemented music classes for the community (including classes in the button accordion, *bajo sexto*, voice, violin, guitar, Latin percussion, mariachi group, and others). He has written and lectured extensively on the history and cultural significance and importance of Tejano and Conjunto music and is the editor of Puro Conjunto, An Album in Words and Pictures/Writings, Posters,

and Photographs from the Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio, 1982-1998
(published by the Center for Mexican American Studies/University of Texas at Austin and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center and distributed by the University of Texas Press.

Tejeda's trailblazing cultural work has elevated the place of Conjunto among global music, and contributed to preserving the genre for future generations. Currently, he is a full-time faculty at Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas, where he is an Instructor of Music and, since 2002, has been directing and developing the first Conjunto music program at the college/university level in the nation. Mr. Tejeda is the button accordionist and vocalist for the San Antonio-based *Conjunto Aztlan*.

ARTISTS

ANDY BENAVIDES - Mixed-media artists, *SOMOS* and *Alameda Theater*

Andy Benavides is a native of San Antonio. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising Art from the University of North Texas. He has studied in New York, Switzerland and Oaxaca where he continued to refine his education in art.

Upon graduation from UNT, he worked as a designer/illustrator in an advertising agency in Dallas. Benavides moved back to San Antonio in 1991 and worked as a scenic painter and freelanced advertising accounts for local businesses. He opened a framing business in 1995. While simultaneously framing for the San Antonio art community, Benavides was also in demand as a scenic contractor and set designer.

In 1996, he established BZ Designs Inc. and in 1997 moved into the 1906 S. Flores space where he opened the ONE9ZERO6 Gallery. His diverse interests are balanced through his continued passion for the arts. As an active contemporary artist, he utilizes his sincere exploration of his mediums with experiential concern.

ESTER HERNANDEZ - Printmaker, painter, and mixed media installationist, *Cantos del Pueblo*

Ester Hernandez is a San Francisco artist and graduate of UC Berkeley. She is best known for her depiction of women through pastels and prints, which reflect political, social, ecological and spiritual themes. She has had numerous solo and group shows throughout the U.S. and internationally. Her work is included in the permanent collections of the National Museum of American Art - Smithsonian, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Mexican Museum- San Francisco and Chicago and the Frida Kahlo Studio Museum in Mexico City. For the past 11 years she has been teaching at Creativity Explored of San Francisco, a visual art center for developmentally disabled adults.

http://americanart.si.edu/search/artist_bio.cfm?ID=5984

When Ester Hernández was a child she watched as Chicano farm workers marched through her home town of Dinuba, California, and were harassed by other local residents. Despite the danger, her family greeted the workers and their leader, César Chávez. At Grove Street College in Oakland, California, as she learned more about Chicano studies, she turned to the art department as an outlet for her anger about the treatment of Latina women.

Hernández's posters have been controversial. She recounts how *Sun Mad* [SAAM, 1995.50.32] began when she went "home to visit my mother in 1979, reading the articles she saved about water contamination in the *barrio*." After thinking about it for two years, remembering how she had worked as a farmhand, she focused her anger on the dangers of growing grapes for the raisin industry. "I focused on something personal, the Sun Maid box," Hernandez said. "Slowly I began to realize how to transform the Sun Maid and unmask the truth behind the wholesome figures of agribusiness. *Sun Mad* evolved out of my anger and my fear of what would happen to my family, my community, and to myself." Hernández finds strength and inspiration in the Latina women with whom she has worked.

Therese Thau Heyman. *Posters American Style* (New York and Washington, D.C.: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., in association with the National Museum of American Art, 1998).

GEORGE CISNEROS - Curator and Media Artist, *SOMOS*

George Cisneros has worked in several artistic genres, all of which involve music; he is an active composer, a creator of sound-producing sculpture, as well as producer of a very impressive series of New Music Festivals, of video installations and educational materials.

Some of his sonic installations include *Music for Dripping Water* (1983), *Antara Flux* (1981), *Plaza de Headphones* (1987), *Trajectory* (1984), *Coyote Songs Decoded* (1987), *Pixel Muerto* (1990), and *Chac Mol-Rain of Lights* (1996), and *Enlightened Window* (1996), a 26 x 16 foot digital mural composed of 26 computer monitors and sandblasted glass panels that will grace the entrance to the new NAFTA Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Cisneros has composed music for film, theatre and dance productions, including *House on Mango Street* (1996), *Petra's Pecado* (1996), *Visions and Voices* (1990), *Roosters* (1989), *Soldier Boy* (1987), *Evidence of Apparitions* (1986), [Kaleidoscope](#) (1958), *El Gran Teatro del Mundo* (1984), *Fragments* (1982), and *Madre del Sol* (1981).

In 1974 he founded the Urban-15 Group, a non-profit organization that produced original new music, experimental performance art and southwestern folk dance productions. From 1978 until 1989 he directed the Third Coast New Music Project Festivals; during this eleven-year period 121 composers, performance artists and

choreographers were showcased in the annual three- and four-day presentations. New music landmarks such as "Blue" Gene Tyranny, Pauline Oliveros and Jerry Hunt performed to full houses of appreciative crowds.

He served as the Coordinator of Information Services for the Texas Commission on the Arts from 1990 to 1994, where he was responsible for public information, desktop graphics production and intergovernmental relations. As part of the Clinton Transition Team, he conducted performance audits of the Federal Arts and Cultural Agencies.

Cisneros presently lives in San Antonio, Texas, where he maintains his multimedia production studio and is co-owner of DCCI, an internet service provider and web creation company. He guest performs with Carnaval de San Anto, a dance and batucada ensemble and directs La Flecha de Tiempo, an electronic and traditional percussion trio. ~ Philip Krumm, All Music Guide

<http://www.answers.com/topic/george-cisneros>

GUILLERMINA ZABALA - Filmmaker and editor, *Tremendo Manicur*

Guillermina Zabala is a San Antonio-based filmmaker/media artist. She graduated from Columbia College-Hollywood with a Bachelor's degree in Cinema. Currently, she is the Media Arts Director at San Antonio's SAY Sí.

This year she was awarded with the NALAC Fund for the Arts Grant for her documentary project *Juanito's Lab*. She served as Curator at the 28th Annual CineFestival en San Antonio. She directed short films (fiction and documentary), music videos, and video installations. Recently, Guillermina presented a multimedia (photo/video/audio) installation that was part of the exhibit *Sound Gallery: de Ushuaia a San Antonio* at the University of Texas at San Antonio Art Gallery. Early this year, she exhibited the experimental video *F-Watch* at Nalip's CAM Slam, and the video installation *Progress* at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center.

In November 2005, she exhibited, along Laura Varela, *True or False: Video Altar Dedicated to the Muertos of the Iraq War* and the documentary *Pan de Vida: Bread of Life* at the Blue Star Contemporary Arts Center.

Her film *The Hot Room* premiered at the 2000 Showtime Latino Filmmakers Showcase. Her photo *Diesel o Nafta? (Gas or Diesel?)* was selected by Formato Digital, an annual Argentine exhibit organized by the La Plata University. Other projects include *A Dinky Flavor: A Matter of Existence* (writer/director, 16 mm), *Copper Women* (director, 35 mm), *A Voice From the Edge* (writer/director, 16 mm).

As an editor, she worked in numerous TV shows, music videos and documentaries, including *KordaVision* (Best Documentary winner of 2006 Monterrey Film Festival, NY Latino Film Festival, Albuquerque Film Festival, 2005 Beverly Hills Film festival and 2004 San Francisco Latino Film Festival) and the Bolivian feature film *The Most*

Beautiful of My Very Best Years, which premiered at the 2005 LA's AFI Film Festival and won Best First Feature Film at the 2006 Guadalajara Film Festival.

Presently, Guillermina is in post-production of *Blacklisted*, a documentary film about the late Argentine actor Luis Politti, whose acting career was cut short due to a tragic political exile. *Blacklisted* was selected to be part of the Latino Media Market at the National Association of Latino Independent Producers Conference in Los Angeles in March, 2006. She is also working with her husband Enrique Lopetegui, music editor of SA's Rumbo Newspaper, in the production of *Juanito's Lab*, a feature documentary that explores the life of blind prodigy musician Juanito Castillo, 18, proficient in 14 instruments.

HAYDEE VICTORIA SUESCUM - Mixed-media artist, *Tremendo Manicure*

Haydee Victoria Suescum received a Bachelor in Fine Arts from Wellesley College in 1983. She continued her studies at the New York Studio School and the University of Texas, San Antonio where she earned a masters Degree in Painting, 1990. She is currently based in San Antonio, TX where she has served the San Antonio community in various capacities at most of the local universities.

Haydeé V. Suescum has exhibited since 1983 in more than fifty group shows, biennales and art competitions in Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Italy, Korea, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and the United States (Chicago, New York, Miami, Boston, Berkeley, Fort Worth, San Antonio.)

Exhibition highlights include an (50th anniversary) invitation by the Italo Latin American Institute (IILA) to officially participate in the Venice Biennale 2003 at the IILA. The collaboration *Deseos en Tránsito* traveled to the Kwangju Biennale in 2004. Also in 2004 she presented *Salón de Belleza y Estética Unisex: Vitruvius Woman/Pantis Vikinis* for the Latin Network of Visual Arts, University of Connecticut, Avery Point Campus, CT. Her work traveled in 1998 *Cross Currents: Contemporary Art from Panama* which originated at the Americas Society, NYC; to the Bass Museum in Miami; the *VII International Bienal in Cuenca* 2001; *Del Centro a la Isla* at the Casa de las Americas in Cuba 2003; and *Women in the Arts Symposium* in Honduras, 1999. Her work has received several prizes in the *Panama Painting Bienales*. Other honors include a residency at the MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, New Hampshire in 1993.

JESSE TREVIÑO - Painter and mosaic artist, *Cantos del Pueblo*

Treviño's family moved from Mexico to San Antonio, Texas, in 1948. Treviño earned an A.A. from San Antonio Junior College, a B.A. in art from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, and an M.F.A. in painting from the University of Texas at San Antonio. In 1987 he was honored with the National Hispanic Heritage Award as Artist of the Year.

Latino Art and Culture Bilingual Study Guide (Washington, D.C.: National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, 1996).

A promising artist before he lost his painting hand in Vietnam, Treviño's victorious struggle to adapt to that loss has been an inspiration. Painting from photographs in the photorealistic tradition, two of Treviño's paintings are in the collection of the Smithsonian's American Art Museum. In recent years Treviño has become known for his building-size murals and mosaics. His "Spirit of Healing", on Santa Rosa Children's Hospital has become a San Antonio landmark. This mural consists of over 150,000 pieces of hand-cut ceramic tile and stands more than 90 feet tall, making it one of the largest murals in North America. Treviño's current project is a 40-foot, three-dimensional veladora, or candleholder, that will be dedicated to the victims of the September 11 terrorist attack.

<http://www.artchive.com/artchive/T/trevino.html>

JOHN DYER - Photographer, *Conjunto*

Dyer's roots are German-Irish and while he was raised in Montana, he has lived in San Antonio for over 30 years. He was initially attracted to the visually expressive nature of Conjunto instruments and performers. Dyer's musical tastes and photographic content are as much a product of the border life experience as they are reflections of a sincere interest in honoring Conjunto music legends.

Dyer received his BA in Fine Arts from Trinity University and MA in the History of Art from the University of Texas at Austin. It was at UT that he met and studied with Russell Lee and Garry Winogrand, both giants in American photography. And, it was at UT that he began that his lifelong passion for photography.

Dyer is an award-winning photographer based in San Antonio whose clients include advertising agencies, graphic designers and major editorial publications around the country. His book, *CONJUNTO*, was published by the University of Texas Press in October, 2005. His next book, *El VAQUERO ORIGINAL*, will be published in the Fall of 2007, by Bright Sky Press. At present he is at work on a third book, also to be published by the University of Texas Press, tentatively titled, *MUJERES*.

LAURA VARELA - Filmmaker and editor, *Tremendo Manicur*

Laura Varela is a San Antonio-based media artists, activist and educator originally from the U.S./Mexico border town of El Paso, Texas. Her projects are community-based and focus on issues of social justice and cultural preservation.

She is a recipient of the Humanities Texas Media Arts grant for her current project *As Long as I Remember: American Veterans*, which examines the legacy of the Vietnam War in the Chicano community from the point of view of artists. This project was also

selected for funding by Latino Public Broadcasting (part of the CPB Minority Consortia) and is currently in post-production with an intended PBS broadcast in 2008. She is currently developing *raúlsalinas and the Poetry of Liberation*, a feature documentary about the life and times of Xicano poet and activist raúrsalinas.

In 2005, along with Guillermina Zabala, Ms. Varela produced *Pan de Vida/Bread of Life*, which features the spiritual and artistic interpretation of Day the Dead by women artists in San Antonio. In 2004, along with Anne Lewis and Heather Courtney, she produced *Texas Majority Minority* for the *Voting in America Project*. In 2002, *A Slight Discomfort: Echoes from the Clinic* (Associate Producer) won the Premio Mesquite Award for Best Experimental Work at the San Antonio CineFestival, and most recently screened at the Peter Norton Symphony Space in New York as part of the Women of Color Film Festival.

Other projects include *Stories of Immigrant Survivors of Abuse: Remedies Under VAWA* (Associate Producer), *Teatro Humanidad* (Producer), and *Liteweight* (Producer, 30 min. 16mm).

In San Antonio, her installation work has been exhibited by the Blue Star Art Space, The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, Gallista Gallery, and the UTSA Downtown Art Gallery.

She is an alumni of the 2006 CPB/PBS Producers Academy, the 2006 NALAC Leadership Institute, and the 2003 NALIP/UCLA Latino Producers Academy. She attended the Sundance Filmmaker's lab in 1997 and in 1993 received her BA from the University of Texas in Radio TV and Film. Her youth-work in San Antonio includes organizations like the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, and KLRN. She is currently Director of Programming for the San Antonio Chapter of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers and has just completed her second year as a Media Arts Panelist for the Texas Commission on the Arts.

FRANCO MONDINI-RUIZ - Guest Artist, Botánica & Artistic Director of REGALO Museum Gift Shop

A native of San Antonio, Franco Mondini-Ruiz has exhibited extensively and recently has established a studio in San Antonio. His solo exhibitions include *Paintin' Place* (2005) at the Contemporary Art Forum in Santa Barbara, *Qué Purdy* (2004) at the the New World Museum in Houston, *Frito Pie*, (2004) at the American Academy of Rome, Italy, *Infinito Botánica: L.A.* (2004) at the UCLA Fowler Museum, *Pan in the Park* (2003) at the Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis, and *Mexique* (2000) at the Museo del Barrio in New York. His work was also featured at the 2000 Whitney Biennial, The Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Miami Museum of Art and many others. In addition, he has received funding from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, ArtPace, the National Endowment for the Arts, Creative Capital Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. In addition, he has been awarded the Prestigious Rome Prize for Visual

Arts in 2005. He has recently released a new book of art and San Antonio-inspired short stories titled *High Pink: Tex-Mex Fairy Tales*.

CHUCK RAMIREZ - Guest Artist

Born in 1962, Ramirez lives and works as an artist in San Antonio, TX. Ramirez has shown extensively throughout Texas and the United States.

Solo and group exhibitions include the Bronx Museum of Contemporary Art, NY; Arlington Museum of Contemporary Art; Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria; North Texas State University Gallery, Denton; Lawndale Art Center, Houston; Finesilver Gallery, San Antonio, TX; and Elizabeth Dee Gallery, NY.

In 1999 the artist exhibited a photo installation entitled "Long-Term Survivor" in ArtPace's Hudson (Show) Room. In 2001, he was selected for an ArtPace residency by Jerome Sans, Independent Curator and Co-Director of the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France. Recent international exhibitions include Arcaute Arte Contemporáneo in Monterrey, Mexico; Centro de La Imagen in Mexico City and Galerie Khadrberlin in Berlin.