SELECTIONS FROM
THE CONTEMPORARY
ART COLLECTION

January 23–May 31, 2015
Main Gallery

The Official Mexican
& Mexican American
Fine Arts Museum of Texas
SELECTIONS FROM THE CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTION

This exhibition marks the first time that the Museum will hold a permanent collection exhibition focused exclusively on its contemporary art collection. The works on display represent the concepts, techniques, and subject matter from the diverse Latino community.

Selections from the Contemporary Art Collection features an array of contemporary art, showcasing works by David “Shek” Vega, Adriana Corral, Miguel Aragon, Gil Rocha, and others (listed in the catalogue). The exhibition highlights a variety of mediums from installations to two-dimensional works. The works of art on display explore a range of topics from social commentary on global politics to contemporary issues pertaining to identity politics. Demonstrating elements of drama and suspense, for example, Gil Rocha’s Cartonado juxtaposes fantasy, humor, and everyday materials in a manner that displays the conceptual nature of the exhibition. Adriana Corral’s installation Voces de las Perdidas (Voices of the Lost Women) presents a unique interpretation of the ceramic tile: hanging body tags, composed of soil from the site of the Campo Algodonero (cotton field) murders in Ciudad Juárez, embodying the victims of femicide in Mexico. David “Shek” Vega’s piece celebrates the centennial of the Mexican Revolution; his interpretation demonstrates the artist’s detachment from his Mexican heritage and identity.

PERMANENT COLLECTION

Over the past 30 years, the Mexic-Arte Museum has acquired works of art for its permanent collection through gift or donation, commission, and purchase. The permanent collection is composed of approximately 3,000 works of historic and contemporary Mexican, Latino, and Latin American art. The majority of collection items were created in the late 20th century and in the 21st century. Objects reflect many themes within the humanities including religious transformation in the Americas, social change in the U.S./Mexico borderlands region, immigration history, and the importance of popular art. The collection contains prints (serigraphs, lithographs, woodcuts, linocuts); paintings; photographs; drawings; sculptures, and masks from various states in Mexico.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mexic-Arte Museum is dedicated to cultural enrichment and education through the collection, preservation and presentation of traditional and contemporary Mexican, Latino, and Latin American art and culture to promote dialogue and develop understanding for visitors of all ages.

David “Shek” Vega; Untitled; 2010; Mixed media, 8’ x 4’ (panels), total size with painted border 10’ x 19’; Mexic-Arte Museum Collection; 2011.2.1a, b, c, d
A permanent collection is comprised of the artwork owned by a museum, which is usually much larger than what we see on display. At any given time, museums display only a portion of their collections. This is often because exhibition requires much more space than storage; it is impractical for the entire collection to be on display at one time. The Museum staff creates exhibits with different themes and selects artworks that exemplify these concepts.

Accessioning is the formal, legal process of accepting an object into a museum collection. Art objects may be acquired at any time through donation, purchase, or trade. To officially accession an object into a museum’s collection is to make a permanent obligation to care for it. Therefore, several issues must be considered in this decision, such as: Is the object relevant to the museum’s mission and its scope of collecting, as defined by its governing body? Does the owner of an object have legal title to the object and therefore the right to transfer it? Is the object encumbered by any donor restrictions?

Objects may be examined by a conservator and treated for any pre-existing damage. The object is then cataloged by a collections registrar or other specialist with knowledge of the object’s importance and history. Provenance is the history of an object from the time it was made. Research into an object’s history of ownership allows curators to make an informed decision about accessioning it and how and when to display it.

Contemporary art also carries the connotation of being more socially, economically, and politically conscious than the art of any previous era. When speaking about contemporary art from the last 45 years, it is often in connection with a response to political issues such as feminism, multiculturalism, globalization, and other topics of the moment.

WHAT IS “CONTEMPORARY” ART?

The terms “modern” and “contemporary” are used interchangeably in everyday speech, but there are key distinctions between these movements in art history. The term modern art generally references art produced after the Impressionists (circa 1880) until the term ‘postmodern’ was used in the 1970s. The century-long span of modern art encompasses hundreds of art movements, from Cubism to Pop Art. Contemporary art picks up where modern art left off, in the 1970s, and continues to present day. Contemporary art is art that has been and continues to be created during our lifetimes. This information is incorporated into the label when exhibited (See example on left).

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WHAT IS A MUSEUM LABEL?

Label: Written words used alone or with illustration in museum exhibitions to provide information for visitors, presented as text on exhibit graphic panels or computer screens. Known to visitors as captions, descriptions, titles, blurbs, explanations, placards, plaques, legends, cards, labels, and “those little words on the wall”.

Name: The artist’s name (birth year, birth [place])

Year: Year that the work of art was completed

Title: Title of the work of art

Medium: The materials used to create the work or art

Size: The dimensions of the work of art

Accession Number: A control number, unique to an object, whose purpose is identification, not description.

Provenance: The history of ownership of a work of art including the specific geographic location of origin. How an object came to be part of a museum’s collection.

Caption label: In addition to the identifying section of a label, some pieces include a caption that provides background information on the piece and identifies the “big idea” behind a piece.
BOBBY Dixon (b. 1973 in Portsmouth, Virginia)

Construction Sign, 1996
Mixed media, 43” x 91”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.13.2
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN THE 2nd ANNUAL YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS, 1996

Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN THE 2nd ANNUAL YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS, 1996

Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.13.1b
Gift of the Artist

FIDENCIO DURAN (b. 1961 in Maxwell, Texas)

Godless of Liberty, 1996
Acrylic on Canvas, 37” x 61”/framed 36” x 60”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.21.1
Gift of Bicentennial Health Delgado Anaco UP

EXHIBITED IN THE Young Latino Artists 14: TARP 2 Lona

Gift of the Artist

SANTIAGO FORERO (b. 1954 in Mercedes, Texas)

Legal migrants illegal migrants alien migrants flow on the Border waiting the country with sweet
Border Patrol guards the migratory stream looking for Deportable aliens ignoring the status. A proportion of all leaves Cargando sueños, esperanzas aspiracionales, exported C.O.D., 1983
Acrylic, spray paint on canvas, 36 ½” x 47 ½”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.17.1
Promised to Mexic-Arte Museum by Sylvia Orozco

Cruz Ortiz (b. 1972 in Houston, Texas)

Untitled (from the Urban Transmission Series), 2001
Mixed media installation; Various dimensions
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.8.1
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN TRACES OF CULTURE, 6th Annual Young Latino Artist, Mexic-Arte Museum, 2001

RICARDO PANAGUA (b. 1981 in Dallas, Texas)

Singularity, 2013
Lacquer on MDO Panel, 47” diameter
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.5.1
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN Young Latino Artists 16/Con Juntos, Mexic-Arte Museum, 2013

PURO CHINGÓN COLLECTIVE

MARCELA MORAÍN (b. 1970 in Irapuato, Texas)

Audiences, 2008
Video Recording
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.19.1
Gift of the Artist

Randy Munez (b. 1986 in Houston, Texas)

Charcoal drawing mounted on board, 14” x 4”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.9.1
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN Young Latino Artists 14: TARP 2 Lona

Gift of the Artist

PURO CHINGÓN COLLECTIVE

James Huizar (b. 1984 in Pleasanton, Texas)

Texas English Flash Drive by James Huizar, 2014
Hand-sewn & screenprinted on canvas, 18” x 10.5” x 4 ¼”
Edition of 10
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2014.17.6
Gift of the Artist

Arturo Rivera (b. 1945 in México City)

Air, 2000
Charcoal and sanguine drawing on paper, 56 ½” x 39 ½”
Long term loan from the artist

GILBERTO ROCHA (b. 1982 in Irapuato, Texas)

Cardenales, 2007
Cardboard, child’s bicycle, and transistor radio, 8” x 4”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2014.15.1
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN 4th Annual Young Latino Artist Exhibition, Mexic-Arte Museum, 2008

Paul Valadez (b. 1965 in San Francisco, California)

El Coronado Duela, 2006
Acrylic on masonite, 23 ½” x 24 ¼”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.14.1
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN the 2009 Texas Biennial

RAFAEL VARGAS-SUÁREZ UNIVERSAL (b. 1972 in México City)

101 Years Prefabricated, 1995
Mixed media on plywood, 34” x 31 ½”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.6.1
Gift of the Artist

RAFAEL VARGAS-SUÁREZ UNIVERSAL (b. 1972 in México City)

Astronomical Unit, 1996-97
Black & red: Oil on wood, 25 ½” x 17 ¼”
White & red board: 46 ½” x 16 ½”
Black and Beige board: 22 7/8” x 17 7/8”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.6.3a, b, c
Gift of Sylvia Orozco

REGINA VATER (b. 1943 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Dead Cargo, 1991
Wood, concrete and feathers, 6” x 11” x 35’
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.8.6
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN Counter Golan-value, Mexic-Arte Museum, 1992

DAVID MEDALLA (b. 1942 in Manila, Philippines)

Hand-painted artist print, 56 ½” x 43 ½”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.4.1
Gift of the Artist from the exhibition Voices [1997], a two person exhibition with Regina Vater, January 30 to March 8, 1997 at Mexic-Arte Museum

DIANA MONDA (b. 1958 in El Paso, Texas)

Sempre Certo Blass, 2012
College of recycled paper, 25” x 46 ½”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2014.14.1
Gift of Rafael Franco

EXHIBITED IN Young Latino Artists 16/Con Juntos, Mexic-Arte Museum, 2013

PURO CHINGÓN COLLECTIVE

Claudia Aparicio-Gamundi (b. 1984 in Monterrey, Mexico)

Nitos/Nito Alien Plush Doll, 2014
Hand-sewn & screenprinted on canvas, 18 ¼” x 11” x 3”
Edition of 10
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2014.17.4
Gift of the Artist

PURO CHINGÓN COLLECTIVE

Claudia Zamarripa (b. 1984 in Victoria, Texas)

Moquita Bear Plush Doll by Claudia Zamarripa, 2014
Hand-sewn & screenprinted on canvas, 19 ½” x 10 ½” x 3”
Edition of 10
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2014.17.5
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN Young Latino Artists 16/Con Juntos, Mexic-Arte Museum, 2013

PURO CHINGÓN COLLECTIVE

Claudia Zamarripa (b. 1984 in Victoria, Texas)

Moquita Bear Plush Doll by Claudia Zamarripa, 2014
Hand-sewn & screenprinted on canvas, 19 ½” x 10 ½” x 3”
Edition of 10
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2014.17.5
Gift of the Artist

PURO CHINGÓN COLLECTIVE

James Huizar (b. 1984 in Pleasanton, Texas)

Texas English Flash Drive by James Huizar, 2014
Hand-sewn & screenprinted on canvas, 18” x 10.5” x 4 ¼”
Edition of 10
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2014.17.6
Gift of the Artist

Arturo Rivera (b. 1945 in México City)

Air, 2000
Charcoal and sanguine drawing on paper, 56 ½” x 39 ½”
Long term loan from the artist

Gilberto Rocha (b. 1982 in Irapuato, Texas)

Cardenales, 2007
Cardboard, child’s bicycle, and transistor radio, 8” x 4”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2014.15.1
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN 4th Annual Young Latino Artist Exhibition, Mexic-Arte Museum, 2008

Paul Valadez (b. 1965 in San Francisco, California)

El Coronado Duela, 2006
Acrylic on masonite, 23 ½” x 24 ¼”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.14.1
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN the 2009 Texas Biennial

Rafael Vargas-Suárez Universal (b. 1972 in México City)

101 Years Prefabricated, 1995
Mixed media on plywood, 34” x 31 ½”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.6.1
Gift of the Artist

Rafael Vargas-Suárez Universal (b. 1972 in México City)

Astronomical Unit, 1996-97
Black & red: Oil on wood, 25 ½” x 17 ¼”
White & red board: 46 ½” x 16 ½”
Black and Beige board: 22 7/8” x 17 7/8”
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.6.3a, b, c
Gift of Sylvia Orozco

Regina Vater (b. 1943 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Dead Cargo, 1991
Wood, concrete and feathers, 6” x 11” x 35’
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2015.8.6
Gift of the Artist

EXHIBITED IN Counter Golan-value, Mexic-Arte Museum, 1992

David “Sique” Vega (b. 1981 in San Antonio, Texas)

Untitled, 2010
Mixed media, 8’ x 4’ panels, total size with painted border 10’ x 19’
Mexic-Arte Museum Collection 2013.2.1a, b, c, d
Commission for the exhibition, Promises of Independence & Revolution: Artists Interpreting México
THANK YOU TO THE ARTISTS AND PATRONS

As the capital of Texas, home to various universities, and as a city with close ties to Mexico, the Austin community has always provided the Museum with a consistent flow of talented artists and opportunities. Many of the artists have generously contributed their artworks. They have also assisted in selection, curated exhibitions, and have created artworks through commissions. We acknowledge and thank the artists and patrons for the donations that have made this collection possible.

Important collections are built piece by piece. Together as a community, we are creating a collection with the pioneering works that serve to teach about our culture and heritage for generations to come.

MUSEUM HOURS
Monday–Thursday 10am–6pm
Friday 10am–5pm
Saturday 10am–5pm
Sunday 12pm–5pm

OFFICE HOURS
Monday–Thursday 9am–6pm
Friday 9am–5pm

ADMISSION
$5 adults
$4 senior citizens & students
$1 children 12 & under
Free for members
Free every Sunday
Free in December

BECOME A MEMBER
mexic-artemuseum.org/involved/membership

Cover Art:
Top Left: Ricardo Paniagua; Singularity; 2013; Lacquer on MDO Panel, 47”; Mexic-Arte Museum Collection

Top Right: Daphne Arthur; El Juego del Tra Tra Tra (detail); 2009; Wall: canvas, wax, latex, oil paint, wire mesh, fur, plastic, white cloth, nails, 55” x 54 ½” x 31”; Floor: wire mesh, matte medium, fur, enamel, oil paint, spray paint, nails, belts, 29” x 55” x 67”; Mexic-Arte Museum Collection

Bottom Left: David "Shek" Vega; Untitled (detail); 2010; Mixed media, 8’ x 4’ panels, total size with painted border soft. x 19ft; Mexic-Arte Museum Collection

Bottom Right: Gilberto Rocha; Cartonado; 2007; Cardboard, child’s bicycle, and transistor radio, 8’ x 4’ x 4’; Mexic-Arte Museum Collection

This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department. © Mexic-Arte Museum 2015