

Arte de Tejas: A Nascent Collection of Mexican American Artists

Cultural Regions of Texas



The Mexican American Museum of Texas (TMAMT) proudly presents a landmark milestone: the endowment of original artwork by distinguished Texas Mexican American artists and collectors. These foundational contributions form the core of the museum’s nascent permanent art collection.

This special showcase not only celebrates the artistry of these cultural trailblazers but also marks the beginning of the museum’s physical art collection, anchoring TMAMT’s mission to interpret and honor Mexican American heritage through the lens of Mexican Americans.

As TMAMT continues to advance its strategic plan for developing its permanent museum site, Arte de Tejas will provide a powerful preview of what is to come as it presents works by some of Texas’ most distinguished Mexican American artists:

- Manuel G. Acosta, Juan Aldama, Mx/El Paso
- Tomás Bustos, Dallas
- Filberto Chapa, Corpus Christi/Dallas
- José Cisneros, Villa Ocampo, Mx/El Paso
- Viola Degado, Dallas
- Alejandro Díaz-Ayala, La Piedad, Mx/Dallas
- Carlos Donjuan, Dallas
- Eliseo García, Dallas
- Sergio García, Dallas
- Carmen Lomas Garza, Kingsville/San Francisco
- Manuel Garza, Texas Hill Country
- Nivia González, San Antonio
- Luis Guerra, Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mx/Austin, Texas
- Juan Hernández, Monterrey, Mx/Dallas
- Luis Jiménez, El Paso
- César Martínez, Laredo/San Antonio
- Jesús Toro Martínez, Laredo/San Antonio
- Tina Medina, Lubbock/Dallas
- Gil Rocha, Laredo
- Porfirio Salinas, Bastrop/San Antonio
- Rudolf Sotelo Lailson, Laredo
- Jesús Flores Treviño, San Antonio

TMAMT would like to thank the artists, collectors, and Kirk Hopper, owner/director of Kirk Hopper Fine Art, for making this exhibit possible.

The Mexican American Museum of Texas

TMAMT was founded in June 2022 to provide a home to share and celebrate the Mexican American experience unique to the various regions of Texas. With its indigenous, Afro, Spanish, Mexican and Tejano roots, this experience is foundational to what makes Texas the great state it is today.

The 2020 census revealed that the Texas Population is nearly 40% Hispanic, of which 83% is of Mexican American heritage. The forging of this new museum is timely. A future permanent collection, along with visiting collections from all regions of Texas will serve as the foundation for vibrant and engaging cultural activities. TMAMT has developed partnerships with statewide museums and cultural centers to create exhibits which showcase the rich and vibrant Mexican American heritage of Texas.

Eight members of various Hispanic not-for-profit organizations, including The Dallas Mexican American Historical League (DMAHL), Hispanic Organization for Genealogy and Research (Hogar de Dallas), Dallas Legacy Mission, Inc. (DLM) and The Last Patrol, joined forces with the vision of creating a space for telling our story in our own words with a view through our own prism.

Founding members are: Gus N. Hinojosa, president; Juanita H. Nanez, vice-president; Linda Ramirez, secretary; Alex Martinez, treasurer; David Trevino, Robert Ramirez, Albert Gonzales and Ruben Arellano PhD. These successful community leaders bring to the board a wealth of knowledge and experience from their designated professions. They hail from cities across Texas, aligning with our focus to represent all regions of Texas.

Please visit www.tmamt.org for upcoming events, statewide information and opportunities to be part of this vibrant and historic museum.

About TMAMT:

The purpose of TMAMT is to provide, permanently and on a visiting basis, a venue for exhibiting and interpreting Mexican American history, culture and origins, from its earliest beginnings to the present. TMAMT’s objective is to enrich current and future generations from a Mexican American perspective. We are a 501(c)3 not for profit organization.

Mexican American art in Texas encompasses a vibrant and diverse range of artistic expressions, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and historical experiences of Mexican Americans in the state. This artistic landscape includes everything from traditional folk arts and crafts to contemporary art forms, with a strong emphasis on community engagement and social commentary.

Key Aspects of Mexican American Art in Texas

Chicano Mural Movement:

A significant part of this artistic expression is the Chicano mural movement, which emerged in the 1960s & 70s. Artists used public spaces like walls of buildings, schools, and community centers to depict Mexican American culture, history, and political struggles. These murals served as a powerful form of visual communication and a means of reclaiming cultural identity.

Folk Arts and Crafts:

Mexican American communities in Texas have long cultivated vibrant traditions of folk arts and crafts, including pottery, metalwork, leatherwork, weaving, and woodworking. These crafts often reflect a blend of indigenous, Spanish, and Mexican influences, and they play a crucial role in maintaining cultural traditions and community identity.

Contemporary Art:

Mexican American artists in Texas are also actively engaged in contemporary art practices, exploring a wide range of themes and mediums. Their work often reflects on issues of identity, social justice, borderlands, and the complexities of living between two cultures.

Influence of the Chicano Movement:

The Chicano movement of the 1960s & 70s significantly impacted Mexican American art in Texas, inspiring artists to create work that was both politically charged and culturally relevant. This movement emphasized cultural pride, self-determination, and social justice.

Community Engagement:

A strong emphasis on community engagement is a hallmark of Mexican American art in Texas. Artists often work collaboratively with communities, creating art that reflects the values, experiences, and aspirations of the people.

