

RUIZ-HEALY ART

Latinx, Latin America, & Texas Contemporary Art

Ruiz-Healy Art presents *Vast and Varied: Texan Women Painters*, a group exhibition of works by Jennifer Agricola Mojica, Eva Marengo Sánchez, Audrey Rodríguez, Marta Sánchez, and Ethel Shipton. The exhibition will be on view at our New York City gallery from June 12 to August 15, 2025, with an opening reception on June 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. *Vast and Varied: Texan Women Painters* tackles the cultural milieu through themes of cityscapes, motherhood, mementos, and domesticity.

San Antonio-based artist Jennifer Agricola Mojica paints vibrant, ephemeral spaces that offer belonging in a discordant world. Her superimposed compositions cross genres of abstraction and figurative painting. By stripping and rebuilding thick layers of paint, Agricola Mojica creates visual tensions that allude to fractured memory and the deception of time. In *The Sixteen Dollar Cake*, a sleeping figure is positioned under a lush canopy of monstera plants as lingering smoke rises from the wicks of extinguished birthday candles, alluding to memories and the passage of time. Her paintings portray the transience of navigating through grief and motherhood with fragmented forms.

Eva Marengo Sánchez paints realistic still lifes of seemingly mundane subjects. With these paintings, she uplifts her cultural heritage and chronicles her upbringing in San Antonio, Texas. Sánchez captures pockets of time and the emotional complexity that accompanies each juncture. She exposes the after-image of these moments by rendering everyday objects: remnants of a South Texas breakfast, a vase with flowers, a broken chair. The painting titled, *No, I can fix it! To: Tía Lupe*, centers around a fractured chair that once was a fixture in her *tía* Lupe's kitchen. Sánchez confronts the intricacies of grief and the pain of losing a loved one. She explores the intersection of longing, love, nostalgia, and guilt through deep, sentimental ties to the ordinary.

Similarly, Audrey Rodríguez assembles objects of personal and social significance that she pulls from familial settings. Her observational still lifes, which are rooted in cross-cultural identity, integrate elements of magical realism that enable her work to reflect intergenerational attitudes towards migration and the circulation of objects and goods across borders. Growing up in Port Isabel, South Texas, and later moving to New York, the artist elaborates on how movement has shaped how she sees and values the everyday. "Living in Brooklyn now, I still carry those textures through color, material, and memory. The objects I paint aren't just things; they hold a sense of movement, adaptation, and dual belonging."

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Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Chicana artist Marta Sánchez constructs a cultural identity portrait by merging everyday life scenes with folkloric expression. Her figurative style, featuring religious icons typically adorned in shrines and altars, renders her artworks as contemporary *retablos*. *Retablos*, small devotional paintings featuring religious scenes and Catholic saints, are popular folk art in Mexico derived from traditional Catholic church art brought to the Americas by the Spanish Empire. Sánchez follows in the traditions of *retablos* in paintings such as *Rome*, where Sánchez depicts a boy and a girl unaware of the saints that hover over their beds, with the text of a prayer framing the image.

Focusing on the often unnoticed signs and symbols of urban life, Ethel Shipton documents images from text, signs, and graffiti seen on the street, repurposing them into screenprints and paintings. Her work often features texts and colloquialisms in English and Spanish, as seen in *Where are we going I*, where an indiscernible highway is overlaid with road signs and the phrase *Donde Vamos/ Where are we going*.

About Ruiz-Healy Art

Founded in San Antonio, Texas, in 2006, Ruiz-Healy Art represents an international roster of artists, emphasizing Latino/a and Latin American creators and prominent Texas-based artists. Biculturalism and discussions of identity are important aspects for several artists we work with. In the spring of 2019, we opened a gallery space in the Upper East Side of New York City that works in tandem with the gallery in San Antonio as a platform to disseminate the artist's work. The continuous investments in these under-represented areas have remained a longstanding signature of the gallery program. The gallery is recognized for its success in placing works by our artists in prestigious museum collections ranging from the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the LA County Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Antonio Museum of Art, McNay Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and many others.