

# RUIZ-HEALY ART

Latinx, Latin America, & Texas Contemporary Art

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Ruiz-Healy Art presents *Heirloom*, a group exhibition of works curated by Sarah Beauchamp and Yadira Silva. The exhibition will be on view at our San Antonio gallery from June 18 to August 9, 2025, with an opening reception on June 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Featured artists include Richard “Ricky” Armendariz, Jennifer Ling Datchuk, César A. Martínez, Celia Álvarez Muñoz, Katie Pell, Chuck Ramirez, Carlos Rosales-Silva, and Ethel Shipton, among others. Drawing from the Ruiz-Healy Art archive, the exhibition explores how cultural artifacts, moments, and gestures are embedded in visual language. *Heirloom* explores everyday objects, inherited materials, symbolic forms, and language to carry, reconstruct, and honor memory. Artists turn to material such as family photos, ritual items, and heirlooms for preservation and re-contextualization. Objects, sometimes humble and other times ornate, serve as traces of lived experiences.

Several artists use materiality as a direct conduit to memory, their work acting as tactile repositories. Artists such as Carlos Rosales-Silva and Jennifer Ling Datchuk utilize materials to explore how identity is embedded in surfaces, textures, and forms. Carlos Rosales-Silva’s mixed media work, incorporating sand, crushed stone, and glass beads in acrylic on panel, utilizes materials that resonate with US-Mexico border culture, evoking place through abstracted forms. Ling Datchuk, in her work *Love Yourself Long Time*, created custom-made welcome mats manufactured in China to explore the relationship between labor, migration, and the exoticization of Asian women.

For artists Celia Álvarez Muñoz and Cisco Jiménez, familiar urban elements such as logos, advertisements, and everyday ephemera are catalysts for their practice. In his work *Hand Deliver ASAP*, Jiménez assembles a combination of imagery and text, ranging from beer logos to shopping tags, creating a chaotic relationship and devising a contemporary iconography for Mexico. *Quince* nods to a coming-of-age Latin American tradition of a girl turning fifteen. With this work, Álvarez Muñoz practices a form of “visual shopping” that combines typical quinceañera imagery of tiaras with the visual vocabulary of contemporary tattoos, graffiti books, and sign painting.

*Heirloom* examines how artists reinterpret historical narratives through the use of layered motifs. Artist Michael Menchaca uses imagery and symbols from Mesoamerican codices in their work, depicting cats as migrants and wanderers to challenge popular narratives, especially those

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concerning their hometown of San Antonio. Lina Puerta, in her tapestry series "*Latine/x Farmworkers in the US*," creates portraits of agricultural laborers with handmade paper, contrasting them with ornate textile frames that signify the poetic life cycle of the crops themselves.

Language emerges as a key element in *Heirloom*. Ethel Shipton and Ricky Armendariz, from the US-Mexico border towns of Laredo and El Paso, respectively, explore how inherited language evolves and informs culture. Armendariz explains how literature, *tejano*, conjunto, and country music inform his work: "A lot of the themes are about lost or unrequited love, loss of life and property." Armendariz uses these themes and song lyrics as titles to his work, and, in the case of *Your Wild Garden*, he carves into a painting on birch wood with the words "*Your Wild Garden is Where I Choose to Live, mas y mas y mas*." Shipton uses text as a conceptual anchor in her work, incorporating Spanglish phrases that reflect the linguistic hybridity of a borderland identity. As co-curator Yadira Silva states, "Her choice of words is familiar and fractured, capturing the fluidity of cultural belonging with the intimate, everyday poetry of bilingual experience."

Throughout the exhibition, artists map domestic objects in a way that serves as a visual ethnography. Artists explore the emotional weight of domestic items - doormats, irons, and household cleaners- and examine how they carry familial and cultural memory. Katie Pell's *Natural Iron* is a personal declaration, reimagining the role of a housewife and creating a parallel universe in which women spend their disposable income on customizing domestic items, such as toasters, washing machines, and irons, rather than the male-dominated hobby of car customization. In Chuck Ramirez's *Abuela's Kitchen*, Ramirez documented his grandmother's kitchen to reimagine a type of still life. The inside of her fridge, a busy stovetop, food containers, the artist captures warm, fleeting moments of what he would consider the heart of a home, honoring the relationship with his grandmother.

*Heirloom* reflects the gallery's ongoing commitment to artists whose practices are deeply rooted in cultural history, personal narrative, and experimental form. The exhibition positions heirlooms not as static objects frozen in time, but as active participants in the formation of identity.

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## About Ruiz-Healy Art

Founded in San Antonio, Texas, in 2006, Ruiz-Healy Art represents an international roster of artists, with a particular emphasis on Latino/a and Latin American creators, as well as 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 on the Upper East Side of New York City, working in tandem with our gallery in San Antonio as a platform to disseminate the artist's work. The continuous investment in these underrepresented areas has remained a longstanding hallmark 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.

## About the Curators

**Sarah Beauchamp**, Mexican-born and Texas-raised, earned a double undergraduate degree in Art History and Spanish and a master's in Hispanic Studies at Loyola University Chicago. She has been with Ruiz-Healy Art since completing her studies in 2023, and is currently the Gallery Manager at Ruiz-Healy Art.

**Yadira Silva** is a Mexican American artist and arts worker in San Antonio, Texas. She earned her Bachelor's in Fine Arts with a Minor in Art History from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2024. She has been with Ruiz-Healy Art since completing an internship program at the gallery during her studies. Silva is currently a Senior Gallery Assistant at Ruiz-Healy Art.