

Consuelo Jimenez Underwood Awarded Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship



Consuelo Jimenez Underwood in her studio

Ruiz-Healy Art congratulates gallery artist Consuelo Jimenez Underwood for having been awarded the 2026 Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship from the American Craft Council. Representing an award for a lifetime of achievement, the Gold Medal is the highest award given by ACC. Gold Medal awardees represent the extraordinary among a field of elite craftspeople. The American Craft Council fosters livelihoods and ways of living grounded in the artful work of the human hand, creating a more joyful, humane, and regenerative world.

Jimenez Underwood received her BA and MA from San Diego State University, San Diego, CA. In 1987, she received an MFA in Art from San Jose University, San Jose, California, where she immediately assumed the role of Professor and Director of the Fiber Art Department for over two decades.

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Consuelo Jimenez Underwood, *Inside the Rain Rebozo*, 2017, signed, titled, and dated (on a cotton label affixed to the reverse), wire, linen, and miscellaneous threads cotton fabric, 48 x 20.5 in., 121.9 x 52.1 cm

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Consuelo Jimenez Underwood was born in Sacramento, CA, to migrant agricultural workers: a Chicana mother and a father of Huichol Indian descent. During this time, Jimenez Underwood developed her unique tri-cultural perspective: Chicana/Indigenous/American. Using this voice, Jimenez Underwood interweaves themes and imagery that reflect and revisit social memories. In the artist's words, "Over thirty years ago, when 'craft vs. art' was the most divisive issue in the arts, I discovered and established my 'authentic artistic voice,' and refocused my artistic studies from the paintbrush and pigments to needle and thread. Empowered by the voices of my Indigenous maternal ancestors, I began to cross the intellectual borders that separated the hand and the mind (craft) from the spirit (fine art). My work reflects personal border experiences: the interconnectedness of societies, insisting on beauty in the struggle, and celebrating the notion of seeing this world through my tri-cultural lens."



Consuelo Jimenez Underwood, *Virgen de los Nopales*, 2005, signed lower right, numbered lower left; blindstamped SHG Silkscreen on Coventry paper, stitched with cotton and synthetic threads, Self-Help Graphics, LA., 20 x 26 in., 50.8 x 66.04 cm, Edition of 72

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In 2022, the artist was awarded the Latinx Artist Fellowship, a first-of-its-kind initiative that recognizes 15 of the most compelling Latinx visual artists working in the United States today. Her work is the subject of *Consuelo Jimenez Underwood: Art, Weaving, Vision*, a comprehensive analysis of her work and impact on feminist textile art history, published by Duke University Press. Jimenez Underwood has also participated in numerous notable group exhibitions, such as *Something Beautiful: Reframing La Colección*, El Museo Del Barrio, New York, NY; and *Open Ended: SFMOMA's Collection 1900 to Now*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA. She has been featured and reviewed in publications like *Hyperallergic* and *The New York Times*. In 2024, guest curator Beverly Adams selected her for the Artpace San Antonio International Artist-in-Residence program. Recently, her work has been acquired by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; Museo del Barrio, New York, NY; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR; Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, among others.

Ruiz-Healy Art
74 East 79th Street, 2D
New York, NY 10075
646-833-7709
info@ruizhealyart.com

Wednesday to Friday from 11 AM - 5 PM and by appointment

Ruiz-Healy Art
201-A E Olmos Drive
San Antonio, TX 78212
210-804-2219
info@ruizhealyart.com

Wednesday to Saturday from 11 AM - 4 PM and by appointment



If you are interested in seeing work that is not currently on view, please make an appointment ahead of time so we can prepare the work for your arrival.