

RUIZ-HEALY ART

Latinx, Latin America, & Texas Contemporary Art

Mel Casas

EDUCATION

1958 Master of Fine Arts, University of the Americas, Mexico City, Mexico
1956 Bachelor of Arts, Texas Western College, El Paso, TX

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018-19 *Mel Casas: Human*, The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX; curator: Bianca Alvarez
2017 *Mel Casas: Iconic Reality*, Ruiz-Healy Art, San Antonio, TX (catalogue)
2015 *Getting the Big Picture: Mel Casas and the Politics of the 1960s and 1970s*, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, and Centro de Artes, San Antonio, TX; curator: Ruben C. Cordova
Sex and Cinema with Mel Casas, 1965-1968, Fl!ght Gallery, San Antonio, TX; curator: Ruben C. Cordova
Mel Casas: The Southwestern Cliches, 1982-1989, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, San Antonio, TX; curator: Ruben Cordova
Mel Casas: Art about Art, 1975-1981, San Antonio Public Library Central Library, San Antonio, TX
2014 *Mel Casas: Artist as Cultural Adjuster*, San Antonio College Visual Arts Center Gallery, San Antonio, TX (book)
2002 *Mel Casas: Scopophilia—Enjoying Looking*, Joan Groana Gallery, San Antonio, TX
1999 *Mel Casas Exhibition*, Georgia Southwestern, Department of Fine Arts, Americus, GA
1995 *I Am Talking To You*, Carrington/Gallagher Ltd., San Antonio, TX
1993 *A Focus on Mel Casas: One Man Show*, UTSA Gallery, San Antonio, TX
1989 *Mel Casas, 25 Year Retrospective*, Instituto Cultural Mexicano and the Arte Moderno Gallery, San Antonio, TX
One Man Show, Beverly Gordon Gallery, Dallas, TX
1988 *S.W. Turf*, Arte Moderno Gallery, San Antonio, TX
Mel Casas, Laguna Gloria Museum, Austin, TX
1984 *Southwest Icons*, Koehler Cultural Center, San Antonio College, San Antonio, TX
1976 *Mel Casas: Humanscapes*, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX (catalogue)
1973 Boehm Gallery, Palomar College, San Marcos, CA
1968 Mexican Art Gallery, Mexican Consulate, San Antonio, TX
1967 Trinity University, San Antonio, TX
Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, TX
1963 Mexican Art Gallery, Mexican Consulate, San Antonio, TX
1961 YWCA, El Paso, TX
1958 Galeria Genova, Mexico City, Mexico

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SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Built on Legacy: Artists of San Antonio*, Culture Commons Gallery, San Antonio, TX

2025-6 *Sixties Surreal*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; curators: Dan Nadel, Steven and Ann Ames, Laura Phipps, Scott Rothkopf, Alice Pratt Brown, Elisabeth Sussman, Kelly Lon, and Rowan Diaz-Toth (catalogue)

2023-5 *Xican—a.o.x. Body*, The Cheech Marin Center, Riverside, CA. Traveling to Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL; curators: Cecilia Fajardo Hill, Marissa Del Toro, and Gilbert Vicario (catalogue)

2019 *Artists Respond: American Art and the Vietnam War, 1965-1975*, Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C. Traveling to Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN; curator: Melissa Ho (catalogue)

Men of Steel, Women of Wonder, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR. Traveling to San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX; curator: Alejo Benedetti (catalogue)

Day of the Dead, Centro de Artes Gallery, San Antonio, TX; curator: Dr. Ruben Cordova

2018-2019 *Pop América*, organized by McNay Art Museum and the Nasher Museum. Traveling to the Block Museum at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL; curator: Esther Gabara (catalogue)

2018 *Los Tejanos: Chicano Art from the collection of Cheech Marin*, Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX

American History Does Not Begin with the White Man: Indigenous Themes in the Work of Mel Casas, Bihl Haus Arts, San Antonio, TX

The Other Side of the Alamo: Art Against the Myth, The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, San Antonio, TX

2017-18 *How to Read El Pato Pascual: Disney's Latin America and Latin America's Disney*, as part of *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA*, founded by the Getty Foundation, MAK Center for Art and Architecture, West Hollywood, CA; curators: Jesse Lerner, Ruben Ortiz-Torres

2017 *Before the 45th / Action/Reaction in Chicano and Latino Art*, organized by the AltaMed Art Collection, Los Angeles, presented in partnership with the Mexican Cultural Institute of the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C.; Mexican Cultural Institute; curator: Julian Bermudez

2014 *Contemporary Latino Art: El Corazón de San Antonio*, Texas A&M, San Antonio, TX; curators: Oscar Palacios, Alex Rubio, Rosario Torres-Raines, Ph. D., Kathy Vargas, Alicia Viera, Pat Villeneuve, Ph.D.

2013-14 *Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art*, Organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. Traveling to Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University, Miami, Florida; Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California; Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, Utah; Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, Arkansas; Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, Delaware; Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, Pennsylvania; Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida

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Florida; and Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, Tennessee; curator: Carmen E. Ramos (catalogue)

2004 *Fronteras*, ArtCar Museum, Houston, TX; Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, IN; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA; Weisman Museum of Art, Minneapolis, MN

2003 *Pop Installation*, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX

2002 Smithsonian Institution, Arts & Industries Building, Washington, D.C.
El Grupo Tejano, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

2001 *Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge*. Traveling to San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, Texas, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, El Paso Museum of Art, Texas, Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, Museum of Contemporary Art- La Jolla, California, Museum of Contemporary Art- San Diego, California, Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul, Minnesota, O'Kane Gallery, Houston, Texas, Saint Louis Science Center, Saint Louis, Missouri, de Young Museum, San Francisco, California, Museum of Fine Art Fort Lauderdale; curator: René Yáñez (catalogue)

2000 *Arte Latino: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum*, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. Traveling to El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX; Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL; Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA; Terra Museum, Chicago, IL; Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA; Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, NM; Oakland Museum of Art, Oakland, CA; curator: Jonathan Yorba (catalogue)

1995 *Latinos Tejanos*, Guadalupe Visual Arts Annex, San Antonio, TX
Made in Texas, Parchman Stremmel Gallery, San Antonio, TX
Gardens & Landscapes, Carrington/Gallagher Gallery, San Antonio, TX
Latino Tejanos, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, San Antonio, TX
Labors of Love, Parchman Stremmel Gallery, San Antonio, TX
State Of The State: Contemporary Art In Texas, San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX
Celebrating Latino Artists 1995, Tobin Richter Estate, San Antonio, TX
Art Journeys, Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX
Men of Art Guild, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX
Blue Star, Blue Balls & Blue Art, Blue Star Complex, San Antonio, TX

1994 Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale, AZ
Neuberger Museum, State University, New York City, NY
San José Museum of Art, San Jose, CA

1993-94 *La Frontera=The Border: Art About the Mexico/United States Border Experience*. Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; curators: Patricio Chávez, Madeleine Grynsztejn, and Kathryn Kanjo (catalogue)

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1993 Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York City, NY
San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX
Field Museum of Art
Chicano Social Revolution, Centro Cultural Aztlan, San Antonio, TX
Then & Now: Chicano Art After CARA II, Jansen-Perez Gallery, San Antonio, TX
Centro Cultural, Tijuana, México
Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA

1992 Tucson Museum of Art
The National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.
El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX

1991 *Tejanos*, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX
3 Artists, Jansen-Perez Gallery, San Antonio, TX

1990-93 *Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation, 1965-1985*, organized by the Wight Art Gallery, University of California, Los Angeles, and CARA National Advisory Committee. Traveling to San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Fresno Art Museum; Tucson Museum of Art; Denver Art Museum; Albuquerque Museum of Art and History; National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.; Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York; El Paso Museum of Art and San Antonio Museum of Art, (catalogue)

1990 *15 Pintores y 3 Escultores Tejanos*, Museo de Arte Alvar y Carmen T. Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico Center for the Arts, Vero Beach, FL
Casas and Martinez, Jansen-Perez Gallery, San Antonio, TX

1989 *The Latin American Spirit: Art and Artists in the United States, 1920-1970*, The Bronx Museum of Art, NY; El Paso Museum of Art, TX; San Diego Museum of Art, CA; Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, San Juan, Puerto Rico; curators: Luis R. Cancel, Marimar Benítez, Jacinto Quirarte, Nelly Perazzo, Lowery S. Sims, Eva Cockcroft, Félix Angel, and Carla Stellweg (catalogue)
Celebracion Hispana, Didactic Gallery, Plano, TX; curator: June Mattingly

1987-89 *Hispanic Art in the United States: Thirty Contemporary Painters and Sculptors*, organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Corcoran Art Gallery, Washington, D.C. Traveling to the Lowe Art Museum in Miami, the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, the Centro Cultural de Arte Contemporáneo in Mexico City, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Brooklyn Art Museum; curators: John Beardsley and Jane Livingston (catalogue)

1983 *Showdown: Perspectives on the Southwest*, Alternate Center for International Arts Inc, New York City, NY

1979 *San Antonio College Faculty Exhibition*, Koehler Cultural Center, San Antonio College, San Antonio, TX

1978 *FIRE: One-Hundred Texas Artists*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX

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Traveling to Museum of Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM; El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX; Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY (catalogue) *Dale Gas-Chicano Art of Texas*, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX; curator: Santos Martinez, Jr. (catalogue)

1977 *Ancient Roots New Vision*, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ
National Collection of Fine Arts & Fondo del Sol Spanish American Media Center, Washington, D.C.

1975 *Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Texas Tough Show, Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, TX

1974 *12 Texas Artists*, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX

1973 *Mexican American Art Symposium*, Laurie Auditorium, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX

1972 The Museum, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

1971 *Texas Paintings and Sculptures: 20th Century*, Pollock Galleries, Owens Art Center, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX; San Antonio Museum Association, Witte Confluence Museum, Hemisfair Plaza, San Antonio, TX; University Art Museum, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX; Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth, TX; Louisiana Gallery, Houston, TX
A Blending of Culture - A Blending of Time, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

1970 *Sweet South Texas Funk*, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX

1967 *Now and Beyond*, Witte Museum, San Antonio, TX

1966 *Contemporary Artists' Group Show*, A.C. Gallery, Monterrey, México; Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, TX; Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville, TX; Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, TX
Paintings by Outstanding Southwestern Artists, Witte Museum, San Antonio, TX
Bright Shawl Invitational, San Antonio, TX
Men of Art Guild, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX
Contemporary Artists' Guild, San Antonio, TX
South Plains College, Levellan, Texas, Arlington, TX
Memorial Library, Port Arthur, TX
Today's Printing Exhibition, P.I.C. Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico
Bright Shawl Invitational, San Antonio, TX
15th Exhibition of Southwestern Prints and Drawings, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, TX
35th Annual Local Artists' Exhibition, Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, TX
Sixth Dixie Annual Exhibition, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
Louisiana State Art Commission, Baton Rouge, LA
9th Annual Sun Carnival Exhibition, El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX

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Watercolor Society 16th Annual Exhibition, Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, TX; Houston Baptist College, Houston, TX; St. Edward's University, Austin, TX; Arts and Crafts Center, Fort Sill, OK

Arts and Industries College, Kingsville, TX; McAllen State Bank, McAllen, TX; Sam Houston State Teachers College, Huntsville, TX; Lubbock Art Association, Lubbock, TX; Baylor University, Waco, TX; Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, TX

1964 Two-Twenty Two Gallery, El Paso, TX

Men of Art Guild, San Antonio, TX

San Antonio Public Library, San Antonio, TX

S.A.A. Building, San Antonio, TX

34th Annual Local Artist Exhibition, Witte Museum, San Antonio, TX

Texas Watercolor Society 15th Annual Exhibitions, Witte Museum, San Antonio, TX

Wichita Falls Art Association, Wichita Falls, TX

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Lubbock Art Association, Garden Art Center, Lubbock, TX

Texas A&M University, Kingsville, TX

Memorial Library, Port Arthur, TX

Beaumont Art Center, Beaumont, TX

San Angelo College, San Angelo, TX

Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, TX

Laguna Gloria Museum, Austin, TX

1963 Centennial Art Museum, Beaumont, TX

Men of Art Guild, San Antonio, TX

7th Annual Sun Carnival Exhibition, El Paso, TX

Twenty-Fourth Annual Texas Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Witte Museum, San Antonio, TX

Corpus Christi Art Foundation, Centennial Art Museum, Corpus Christi, TX

Beaumont Art Museum, Beaumont, TX

Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, TX

33rd Annual Local Artists' Exhibition, Witte Museum, San Antonio, TX

1962 Mexican Art Gallery, Mexican Consulate, San Antonio, TX

1960 El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX

Chelmont, El Paso, TX

Brockton Art Association, 3rd Annual Show, Brockton, MA

1959 Maude Sullivan Gallery, El Paso, TX

1957 Saloncito Siete, Mexico City College, Mexico City, Mexico

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AWARDS

- 1989 Barbara Jordan Award, Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons, San Antonio, TX
- 1988 Alamo Community College District, 25-year Service Award
- 1986 Seventh Annual Tribute to the Chicano Arts, Outstanding Service Award, Our Lady of the Lake College, San Antonio, TX
- 1984 Statue of Victory, World Culture Prize for 1984 in Letters, Arts, and Sciences
- 1979 Piper Professor Candidate
- 1977 Piper Professor Candidate
- 1976 Certificate of Appreciation for Distinguished Service in the Field of Art
- 1966 36th Annual Exhibition of San Antonio Art League, Witte Memorial Museum
- 1964 9th Annual Sun Carnival Exhibition, El Paso Art Museum
- 1956 National Society of Arts and Letters
- 1959 6th Annual Sun Carnival Exhibition, El Paso Art Museum, Purchase Prize
- 1958 Mexico City College Saloncito, 7th Exhibition

LECTURES

- 1999 A Series of Lectures, Georgia Southwestern, Department of Fine Arts, Americus, GA
- 1990 College of the Mainland, Galveston, TX
- 1989 Chicano Art and the Museum, El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX
- 1976 Humanities on the Border, U.T. EL Paso, El Paso, TX
Metropolitan State College, Denver, CO
- 1973 Trinity University, San Antonio, TX

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
- The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture, Riverside, CA
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
- San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
- McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX
- Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
- AT&T Art Collection, New York, NY

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Cockcroft, Eva Sperling. "From Barrio to Mainstream: The Panorama of Latino Art." In Kanellos, Nicolas; Esteva-Fabregat, Claudio (eds.). *Handbook of Hispanic Cultures in the United States: Literature and Art*. Houston, Texas: Arte Público Press, 1993.

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Durón, Maximiliano. "The Year in Latinx Art: At a Time When Art Seems Impossible, It Is Still Healing." *ARTnews*, December 30, 2025.

Fauerso, Neil. "Mel Casas: 'Iconic Reality' at Ruiz-Healy Art." *Glasstire*, November 6, 2017.

Foner, Philip S. and Reinhard Schultz. *Das Andere Amerika: Geschichte, Kunst und Kultur der amerikanischen Arbeiterbewegung*. Elefanten Press, 1983.

Frank, Nicholas. "Art with an Accent: Expanded Visions of 'America' in Several San Antonio Exhibitions". *Rivard Report*, October 21, 2018.

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Gonzalez, Rita, Howard N. Fox, and Chon A. Noriega. *Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement*. Los Angeles: University of California, 2008.

Hickey, David. "Mel Casas: Border Lord." *Artspace: Southwestern Contemporary Arts* (1988) Quarterly, No. 12. 4: 28–31.

Jackson, Carlos Francisco. *Chicana and Chicano Art: Protest Arte*. Tucson: Arizona University Press, 2009.

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