

# XICANX

## NEW VISIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dos Mestizx is pleased to present *XicanX: New Visions* at The Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural and Educational Center Inc. (The Clemente).

December 5th, 2019 - January 18th, 2020  
Opening Reception: **December 5th, 2019 7-9pm**



Erick Iñiguez, *Lxs Reinas del Valle*, 2019  
13x19, Photo printed on Luster paper

*XicanX: New Visions* is a national exhibit including 11 contemporary artists whose work is tied to social justice, storytelling of identity and experience, and a transcendence of borders. The exhibit challenges previous and existing surveys of Chicano and Latin American identity-based exhibitions. Exhibiting artists include Xavier Robles Armas, Josie Del Castillo, Tanya Garcia, Erick Iñiguez, Michael R. Leon, Celeste De Luna, Mark Anthony Martinez, Robert Martinez, Juan Ortiz, Gilda Posada, and Jesusa Marie Vargas.

#XicanxNV



107 Suffolk Street  
New York, NY 10002  
(btw Rivington & Delancey)



## Artist Biographies

**Xavier Robles Armas** (b.1991 Zacatecas, Mexico), is a multidisciplinary artist and curator, based in Brooklyn by way of Santa Ana, CA. He holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute where he studied photography. Through photography, sculpture, and installation he investigates the magic and potential within the strata of cities. Xavier seeks moments of transformation and new opportunities to re-imagine and create image worlds through a critical lens that (dis)assembles implicated power structures within the quotidian. He has exhibited at the Cultural Flow Zone of the Università Ca' Foscari (Venice, Italy 2018), in Hiketa, Japan in partnership with Tokyo Arts University (2018), and in Chicago (2019).

**Josie Del Castillo** is a Brownsville portrait artist who received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, TX, and is currently pursuing her Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX. Del Castillo has exhibited throughout the state of Texas in Brownsville, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Dallas, and Lubbock, and most recently in California and New York. Del Castillo's work is inspired by the people she admires most and can often be analyzed as a reflection of herself.

**Tanya Garcia** is an interdisciplinary artist and educator based in Baltimore, MD. In 2014, Garcia received her MFA at the Maryland Institute College of Art and is the recipient of awards such as the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation's Fellowship in collaboration with Creative Alliance, as well as the Intercultural Leadership Institute's 2018-19 national fellowship cohort. She participated in residencies including ACRE and awarded TrueQué's curated residency in Ecuador themed, Natural Hybrids: Frictions Between Art and Ecology. Garcia was also co-founder of an internationally recognized literary arts publication, HYRSTERIA.

**Erick Iñiguez** is a Chicano photographer born & raised in the San Fernando Valley, California. He is a proud transfer student of LA Valley College and UCSB, AS220 Practice//Practice Alumni 2018 (RI), NALAC Leadership Institute Alumni 2018 (TX), and Arts for LA: ACTIVATE Fellow 2019 (CA). He has been a continuous advocate of Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural & Bookstore.

**Michael R. León** is a first generation Mexican-American born in Santa Barbara, California. He received his Bachelor's in 'Painting and Drawing' in 2008 from San Francisco State University. In 2015 he graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with an MFA in 'Painting.' Michael lives and works in Fountain Valley, California.

**Celeste De Luna** is a Tejana border artist from the lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. De Luna's printmaking work and social practice explores the geo-political aspects of post-911 militarization of her environment. The results are large scale relief prints, quilts, and installations which are political commentary with a feminist sensibility. She is a lecturer at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and has shown her work nationally and internationally in New York, Chicago, and Morelia, Michoacán. De Luna is a co-founder of 2017 Art Place America recipients Las Imaginistas art collective, and a 2020 Vermont Studio Center Resident Artist. You can see more of her work at [www.celestedeluna.com](http://www.celestedeluna.com).

**Mark Anthony Martinez** is a San Antonio based artist whose work investigates the socio-political realities of racialized identity in the contemporary United States. Martinez also Co-Curates for Fake Gallery and holds an MFA from Portland State University.

**Robert Martinez** was born on the Wind River Reservation in Riverton Wyoming. He attended Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design and in 3 years he graduated becoming the Youngest Native American to graduate at that time. His Northern Arapaho & Chicano heritage remains a constant inspiration and source of ideas for his work. Living in Wyoming amongst the hard working people of the west and experiencing their issues also influence his creations. The past and present often resonate strongly throughout his work. You can currently see select pieces of Robert's work as part of the permanent collection for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC, The Plains Indian Museum at the Bill Cody Center of the West, and the Red Cloud Heritage Museum.

**Juan Ortiz** is an artist, activist and community organizer who was most recently Creative Alliance's Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Fellow for 2016 – 2017. Ortiz is a graduate of Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in the Community Arts Masters in Fine Arts program. He is presently a doctoral student and fellow in Mexican American studies at the University of Arizona. He holds a Masters in Art and Public Policy from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and a Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary studies from the University of Texas, El Paso. For his work in the Southeast Baltimore Latinx community, Ortiz was selected as a Community Partner to the White House Action Summit in 2015. Ortiz has been designated a Baltimore Social Innovation Fellow (2016), is currently an Open Philanthropy Project Fellow, and was recently a guest speaker at CityLab Baltimore hosted by the Atlantic magazine, the Aspen Institute and Bloomberg Philanthropy.

**Gilda Posada** is a Xicana cultural worker from Southeast Los Angeles. Gilda received her AB from UC Davis in Chicana/o Studies and Comparative Literature. She graduated with a dual degree from California College of the Arts in the MFA Social Practice program and the M.A. Visual and Critical Studies program. Prior to her graduate work, she served as the Curator for Galería de la Raza in San Francisco, CA and Assistant Director for Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer in Woodland, CA. Currently, Gilda is a

Ph.D. student in History of Art at Cornell. As a practicing artist, Gilda is an active member of the artist collective Espacio Tercero. Her work has been exhibited nationally, most notably in Xicanx Futurity and the Contemporary Native Art Biennial (BACA).

**Jesusa Marie Vargas** - “Jesusa” was a nickname given to Jesusa Marie Vargas by her Spanish speaking mother as a child. Now, as an adult, she has come to embrace the name as an artist moniker to appreciate the identity her mother created for her as both Mexican and American. Jesusa, for her, is one symbolic way she bridges and embraces two cultures. She was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1981. Her mother was born in Michoacán Mexico and was crossed over, illegally, at the age of fourteen into the United States. Growing up, she came to experience what scholars have called an “otherness” and much of her artwork acts as her form of *autohistoria*. She was a teen mother at age 16 and she is now married with four daughters. She obtained her BFA at the University of Texas at San Antonio and she is currently pursuing an MFA degree at UTSA.

### **About The Clemente**

“The Clemente Soto Vélez Cultural and Educational Center Inc. (The Clemente) is a Puerto Rican/Latino cultural institution that has demonstrated a broad-minded cultural vision and a collaborative philosophy. While The Clemente’s mission is focused on the cultivation, presentation, and preservation of Puerto Rican and Latino culture, it is equally determined to operate in a multi-cultural and inclusive manner, housing and promoting artists and performance events that fully reflect the cultural diversity of the Lower East Side and the city as a whole.”

Clemente Main Office: (212) 260-4080

Open Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm

<http://www.theclementecenter.org>

[info@theclementecenter.org](mailto:info@theclementecenter.org)

### **About Dos Mestizx**

Dos Mestizx is a Xicanx art collective made up of Suzy González and Michael Menchaca, based in San Antonio, TX. Projects include collaborative exhibitions, public art, and curation. Dos Mestizx holds an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and a BFA from Texas State University.

Contact: [dosmestizx@gmail.com](mailto:dosmestizx@gmail.com)

**December 5th 2019  
to January 18th, 2020**

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Curated by Dos Mestizx

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