

David Zamora Casas

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I identify as a multidisciplinary activist and a San Antonio native, non binary man of Mexican origin. Since 1985, I have been making a life and a living using the power of Art and conversation under the pseudonym Nuclear Meltdown

Work Experience Highlights

February 2024, Despedida de NALAC installation (National Association of Latino Arts and Culture) retirement celebration for Maria Deleon retirement.

January 2024, awarded UTSA Residency “Democratizing Racial Justice” a collaborative project with writer Barbara Renaud Gonzalez.

November 2023 Luminaria contemporary Art Festival 15 year anniversary “Quinceanera” Lead artist and creator of Casa Colibri collective.

September 27, 2023 Artivist Magic performance and discussion during Hispanic heritage month at Northwest Vista College

May 12, 2022 was the inaugural opening of “XICANX: Dreamers and Change Makers / Soñadores y Creadores de Cambio,” a group exhibition addressing the Mexican American struggle for civil rights. I worked closely and frugally with curator Greta de Leon ordering materials to be shipped to Canada. I directed museum staff, students and volunteers on logistics in reference to my installation and my performance opening night at the University of British Columbia, Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, Canada

In March 2022, the Americas Research Network awarded a Fellowship residency enabling me to write and perform a 15-minute segment with Resident Films in Mexico City. The documented performance introduced the academic landmark term “Rasquachismo” which describes a Chicano sensibility. I had the pleasure of working alongside a film crew, including sound engineers and wardrobe. The quality of the work resulted in great audience response. See video link in “Selected Art Samples.”

During the 2020 COVID lockdown, I was awarded a residency from Bihl Haus Arts to install a Day of the Dead altar in the entire gallery, “Love and Death during Pandemia” / “Amor y La Muerte en Tiempos de Pandemia.” I devoted an area to HIV Positive long-term survivors, and to people who died of AIDS. Performance artist Ana De Luna filmed a video “World AIDS Day Con La Catrina de SIDA” on Rapid testing and safe sex, featuring my alter ego Nuclear Meltdown. Watch video links in “Selected Art Samples.”

In 2019, the McNay Museum commissioned an installation for “Transamerica/n: Gender, Identity, and Appearance Today.” Watch the video in “Selected Art Samples.”

The late 1980s through 1990s

ARTS FOR LIFE

I was a core member of several organizations which provided art and critical information to raise awareness, compassion and money through outreach. AIDS became an acronym for “Artist in Direct Service” circa 1990 and a deeply rooted issue in my life.

These organizations were ARTS for LIFE, ROCK for Life, the Blue Candle Project, and the AIDS Foundation.

In 1987, I organized, directed, and produced the first performance art event introducing HIV / AIDS in San Antonio, “SAFE SEX EDUCATION PROJECT,” at Changez nightclub. I continue to move forward this difficult but critical dialogue about HIV / AIDS and now Covid in a mainstream, conservative, heteronormative, racist America.

Selected Art Samples

XICANX <https://xicanxart.com/artists/david-zamora-casas/>

Amor y La Muerte en Tiempos de Pandemia (Love and Death in Times of Pandemic)

Bihl Haus Arts

watch the 58-second time-lapse video at this link: <https://vimeo.com/501243958> take a self-guided virtual tour at this link: [3-D virtual tour](#)

“World AIDS Day Con La Catrina de SIDA”

watch video at this link: <https://vimeo.com/485566608/3598b39bd7>

Watch the video produced by the McNay at this link: <https://youtu.be/PSKoglcH9MU>

What Would DJ Jesus Do? -- visual poem installation piece for WE ARE exhibition at Centro de Artes, San Antonio, TX

Yanaguana, the Place of Queer Waters - visual poem installation in observation of San Antonio's Tricentennial at the Blue Star Contemporary Museum

Selected Awards

2020 City of San Antonio SA Cares Covid relief grant award

2020 - 2021 Inaugural Artist-in-Residence, Bihl Haus Arts, San Antonio, TX

2019 - TransAmerica/n Gender, Identity, Appearance Today, “El Arcoíris” Altar commission for McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX

2019 to now, Casa Colibrí Artist-in-Residence

2018 National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC), San Antonio Individual Artist Grant

2011 National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC), Leadership Institute, San Antonio, TX

2010 San Antonio Artist's Supplemental Grant, ArtPace, WindowWorks, Antonio, TX

2007-08 Best of Show Award for "Hecho a Mano," Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, San Antonio, TX

2001 Coronado Studios Series Project, Austin, TX

2011 Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) Mural Commission, Venice, CA

1996 Henry B. González Convention Center, "Cuentos de Yanaguana," City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Public Art mural commission, San Antonio, TX

1994 Artpace, International Artist-in-Residence Program, Installation, San Antonio, TX

1993 Artpace, London Studio Residency Program, London, England

1992 El Nuevo Mestizo, Individual Artist Grant, City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, San Antonio, TX

1992 New Forms Regional Initiatives Grant, N.E.A., Andy Warhol and the Rockefeller Foundation

Selected Publications

2022 "Day of the Dead in the USA: The Migration and Transformation of a Cultural Phenomenon"
by Regina Marchi, PhD

2021 Lifetime Achievement Award, Sandra Cisneros: CHICAGO LITERARY HALL OF FAME, "Rainbow Colored Lipstick Kisses," pp. 51-53 by David Zamora Casas.

2019 *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, “Will the Real Nuclear Meltdown Please Stand Up?” Cover Art and Artist Communique. UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

2002 *Contemporary Chicano and Chicana Artist, Works, Culture and Education*, vol.1 and Vol. 2 Bilingual Press, Hispanic Research Center, Arizona State University, p. 304

2010

Ancient Guardians of the Sky, A visual conversation catalog essay with Rita Urquijo-Ruiz, PhD, Bihl Haus Arts, San Antonio, TX

1994 *Dreaming Red, Creating Artpace*, San Antonio, TX, pp. 251, 297-298

1991 *Voices from a Queer Nation: OUT lesbian and gay Artist living in Texas*. DiverseWorks Houston, Texas pp. 47, 48

Extracurricular

There are extensive news media interviews as well as Wikipedia, periodicals, and internet videos documenting my life practice when one googles David Zamora Casas.

My paintings are in numerous collections including the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) and the Sandra Cisneros archives.

I seek an understanding of the self-proclaimed pronouns used in current day life conversations through my intergenerational lens.

For the past 31 years, I have constructed public Día De Muertos altar installations in venues including UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures, Witte Museum, Guadalupe Cultural Art Center, and the Instituto Cultural de Mexico. For ten of those years, at the Main Plaza of downtown San Antonio.

My art has been featured in numerous publications, most recently, in [A World of Art](#)

9th Edition, 2022, edited by Henry M. Sayre, Oregon State University - Cascades Campus.

My solo exhibition scheduled at Palo Alto College February 2024 will feature installation, recorded audio, and paintings highlighting Gender Identity / Gender Expression — Colonization and Gentrification Biological Family, Extended Family, and FurrBabies.

Selected on line

(shelter-in-place)Presentations

•FlowerSong Press Online book release Luz at Midnight by Marisol Cortez. Cover art by David Zamora Casas

•Dreamocracy in America

Creative Capital Project artist David Zamora Casas Interview

[www.https://dreamocracyinamerica.org](https://dreamocracyinamerica.org)

•Voz, Vela y Vota

<https://tiny.cc//vozvelayvoto>

Palabras, Prayer y Política