

Jorge Villarreal

San Antonio, TX
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Education

- 2015 **University of Texas at San Antonio ~ San Antonio, TX**
Fine Arts & Photography
- 2014 **Palo Alto College ~ San Antonio, TX**
Liberal Arts
- 2011 **San Antonio College ~ San Antonio, TX**
Architectural Design & Fine Arts
- 2011 **Palo Alto College ~ Spain**
Photography I
- 2010 **San Antonio College ~ Italy**
Architectural Free Hand II & Architectural History II

Awards / Recognition

- 2024 Selected Artist for Biental Fronteriza ~ Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, MEX
- 2023 Selected Artist for Border Biennial ~ El Paso, TX, USA
Selected Artist for TEXAS ARTIST TODAY Vol. II BOOK ~ Houston, TX, USA
- 2019 Blue Star Contemporary A-I-R, Berlin Residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien ~ Berlin, Germany
- 2018 Selected Artist for New York Foundation for the Arts Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program
- 2015 1st place recipient FOTOS SA for Southwest School of Art, San Antonio, TX.
Finalist for PowerHouse Arena, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014 Awarded Artist for Kike San Martin Studios - Art Basel, Miami, FL
Finalist for PowerHouse Arena - Dumbo Arts Festival, Brooklyn, NY

Artist Residencies

- 2019 Berlin Residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien (Blue Star Contemporary A-I-R) ~ Berlin, GERMANY

Collections

(Public & Private)

- 2021 Lester Marks Collection, Private Collection ~ Houston, TX
Texas A&M University, Public Collection ~ College Station, TX
- 2020 Blue Light Contemporary, Public Collection, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, TX
- 2016 The Mexican Embassy, Private Collection, ~ Havana, CUBA

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 **The Thompson** (Private Viewing), Walls Untitled ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2021 **Lottie Mae Lounge, Berlin Sketches** ~ San Antonio, TX
Gallery 100 @ Palo Alto College, Sink ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2018 **La Fototeca de Cuba, Sink** ~ Havana, Cuba
- 2017 **MBS King William, You're A Gem** ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2016 **Hello Studio at Blue Star Arts Complex, WET** ~ San Antonio, TX
BRICK, La Habana: Outtakes ~ San Antonio, TX
Warehouse Space, La Habana ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2015 **Dorcol, Sink** ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2014 **Agora Art Space, All my Friends are Sketchy** ~ San Antonio, TX

**Juried & Group
Exhibitions**

- 2024 **Museo de Arte de Ciudad Juárez**, Bienal Fronteriza ~ Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, MEX
Blue Star Arts Complex, 136 Bluestar ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2023 **El Paso Museum of Art**, Border Biennial ~ El Paso, TX, USA
Under Construction, The Inaugural Exhibition ~ San Antonio, TX
The Contemporary at Blue Star, 33rd Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2022 **GABA Gallery**, Chambre 304 at Hotel Grand Amour ~ Paris, FRANCE
Centro de Artes, NYFA Immigrant Artist Exhibition ~ San Antonio, TX
The Contemporary at Blue Star, 32nd Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2021 **Forsyth Gallery at Texas A&M University**, Villarreal/Felix ~ College Station, TX
The Contemporary at Blue Star, 31st Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
Cothren Contemporary, LATINX ABSTRACT ~ Houston, TX
Apartaco, Lo Incierto ~ Mexico City, MEX
Lottie Mae Lounge, Berlin Sketches ~ Roundtop, TX
- 2020 **The Contemporary at Blue Star**, Please Form A Straight Lines ~ San Antonio, TX
Small Hall Gallery, Red ~ San Antonio, TX
The Contemporary at Blue Star, 30th Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
MBS Gallery, BACALART (Traveling Exhibition) ~ San Antonio, TX
Makaabá, BACALART (Traveling Exhibition) ~ Bacalar, Q.R. MEXICO
L'Atelier des Artistes, BACALART (Traveling Exhibition) ~ Paris, FRANCE
- 2019 **The Contemporary at Blue Star**, 29th Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Open Studios ~ Berlin, Germany
Centro de Artes, NYFA Immigrant Artist Exhibition ~ San Antonio, TX
Cothren Contemporary at Mercury Project, Realidad La Frontera ~ San Antonio, TX
The Contemporary at Blue Star, Selected Artist for Künstlerhaus Bethanien ~ Berlin, Germany
- 2018 **The Contemporary at Blue Star**, 28th Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
Cothren Contemporary at Mercury Project, Untitled ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2017 **The Contemporary at Blue Star**, 27th Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2016 **Carver Community Center**, Common Currents ~ San Antonio, TX
The Contemporary at Blue Star, 26th Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
Mexican Embassy, Collected Artist ~ Havana, Cuba
The Contemporary at Blue Star, 25th Annual Red Dot ~ San Antonio, TX
The Upstairs Studios at Blue Star Arts Complex, *La Habana Recent Works* ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2015 **MBS King William**, *Collection for Community* ~ San Antonio, TX
Artist Foundation of San Antonio, Movable Art Party ~ San Antonio, TX
Southwest School of Art, FOTOS SA ~ San Antonio, TX
Dongdaemun Design Plaza, The Seoul-New York Photo Festival ~ Seoul, South Korea.
PowerHouse Arena, The Last Picture Show ~ Brooklyn, NY
Palo Alto College, Student Exhibition ~ San Antonio, TX
Artpace, Western Photography for Artpace Gala ~ San Antonio, TX
San Antonio City Hall, District 1 Artist Showcase ~ San Antonio, TX
- 2014 **Kike San Martin Studios**, Miami Street Photography Festival - Art Basel ~ Miami, FL
PowerHouse Arena, PhotoWorld, Dumbo Arts Festival ~ Brooklyn, NY
Palo Alto College, Student Exhibition ~ San Antonio, TX

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a first-generation Mexican American, photographer Jorge Villarreal's upbringing was defined by constant motion, transition, and translation, immersing him in two distinct cultures from a very young age. Navigating the boundaries between the United States and Mexico, he pondered which side of the border best represented his identity. This early experience instilled in Villarreal a unique and dichotomous perspective that continues to inspire and guide his work as an artist.

In his series, "Untitled Walls," Villarreal captures the essence of border walls from both sides of the US/Mexico border, presenting them as storytellers. These structures, symbolic of political barriers, extend beyond merely dividing territories—they encapsulate divisions in identities, societies, economies, and cultures. Among these walls, some emerge as urban palimpsests, revealing colors and traces left behind from both cultures, whether arriving or departing.

Villarreal delves into the tension of the "between," existing as both 'of' and 'othered.' His interest lies in the use of one culture's language and identity to investigate and challenge the other. Employing color, symbolism, ritual, and iconography, he explores personal, physical, and political divisions. The photographs within the series display color gradients, symbolizing transitions between borders in both physical and mental states. They also signify the metamorphosis inherent in adjusting to a new environment. Each art piece functions as a fingerprint, identifying and revealing the transitions occurring in an area between cultures, across borders, and through time.

"Untitled Walls" invites viewers to contemplate the profound forces at play within the context of border walls, prompting reflection on the interconnectedness of cultures and the enduring impact of these physical and metaphorical barriers on our shared human experience.