



CITY OF DALLAS

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Bath House
CULTURAL CENTER



Office of Cultural Affairs
CITY OF DALLAS

The Symbol of the Heart Denotes Different Meanings for Visual Artists in New Exhibition at the Bath House Cultural Center

The Bath House Cultural Center presents

The 23rd Annual El Corazón Art Exhibition

Curated by Jose Vargas

February 4-March 4, 2017

Reception: Saturday, February 4, 2017 (7-9 PM)

DALLAS - The Bath House Cultural Center presents the 23rd annual *El Corazón* art exhibition from February 4 to March 4, 2017. A reception with the artists will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2017, from 7 to 9 PM, featuring live music by Chris Castañeda. The exhibition, reception, and all other events related this program are free and open to the public.

El Corazón has been a popular art event at the Bath House Cultural Center since the first year that the show's curator, Jose Vargas, decided to present what was then an invitational exhibition that included the work of a few local artists. The eclectic art pieces in the show explore multiple interpretations of the human heart (El Corazón), an important and inspiring symbol in art. Mr. Vargas has seen a constant increase in the number of artists who over the years have become interested in participating in the exhibition. This year's El Corazón exhibition includes artwork by DFW and Texas

artists, and also by artists from Washington, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Oregon, California, New York, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Virginia; as well as artists from Italy, Iran, Mexico, Panama, and Ecuador.

In the process of curating the exhibition every year, Mr. Vargas understands that his own views and reflections on the theme of the exhibition are very likely to be in contradiction with some of the concepts and ideas expressed by the artists that he selects. The heart is, after all, a symbol that evokes a multiplicity of ideas and opinions. The curator once said that he had first become attracted to the symbol after seeing a picture from a board game depicting a red heart floating in mid air with an arrow shot through it. Some works of art provoke an inescapable visceral reaction and, according to Mr. Vargas, that picture of the heart had a great impact on him because it represented a passionate and raw emotion. It is true that some of the pieces of art in the El Corazón exhibition are aligned with the same elements of the heart that the curator finds so intriguing; however, many of the pieces in the show also explore other ideas that are just as moving and thought-provoking. What makes this show unique is its ability to engage the public with concepts that are wide-encompassing. Representing different emotions—from primeval passion to romantic love, friendship, love of country and family, love of philosophies, ecology, politics, and other areas of human interest—the heart continues to be our most favorite symbol to tell the world how we feel and think.

Participating Artists: Mark Abildgaard, Diana Almand, Chandra Armstead, Jim Baab, Amy Branch-Lambert, Christopher Brown, Kim Carothers, Gillian Chapura, Bradley Cleaver, Dawn Cleaves, Cynthia Daniel, Brett Dyer, Erik Espinoza, Linda Marie Ford, Ellen Frenkel, Bahareh Ghaderi, Denise Graham, Rebecca Guy, Brenda Guyton, Jessica Hills, Chad Hoberer, Laura Hunt, Nafiseh Khoshandam, Shelley Kommers, Serena Laborante, Heather Lafromboise, Joanna LaGrone-Headrick, Al “Bato” Landoll, Mavis Leahy, Marlina Lieberman, Clecio Lira, Yunia Lores, Jackie MacLelland, Marian Maldonado-Pagán, Velkys Mayfield, S Chuck McCarter, Victoria Morales, Louise Murdock, Rebeca Navarro, Lisa Nigro, Yvonne Perez, Larry Pile, Rocio Ramirez Landoll, Jorge Rey, Gail Roberts, Rene Rocha, Lesley Rucker, Armando Sebastian, Pam Stern, Lindsey Strehlow, Wendy Tigchelaar, Alexandra Tomalá, Diane Torres, Julie Treviño, Lisa Vollrath, Roger Walkup, Brian Weaver, Jack Weaver, Aaron Wilder, Jim Wilson, Taurian Witt, Kelly Witte, Carole Wolanow, Kristen Woodward, and Kim Worthington.

Please visit www.bathhousecultural.com for more information about the exhibition and the cultural center.

Press Photographs: To download print-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG press photographs of this exhibition, please visit the online Press Room at <http://www.bathhousemedia.com>.

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The Bath House Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The center is dedicated to fostering the growth, development and

quality of multi-cultural arts within the City of Dallas. The center emphasizes innovating visual and performing arts as well as other multi-discipline events throughout the year. Funding for the Bath House Cultural Center is provided by the City of Dallas, with additional support from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Location and hours: The Bath House Cultural Center is located on the eastern shore of White Rock Lake at the end of Northcliff Dr. off of Buckner Blvd. at **521 E. Lawther, Dallas, TX 75218**. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM. The center is open until 10:00 PM on nights with theatre performances. For general information about cultural programs at the Bath House Cultural Center, please call (214) 670-8749 or visit the center's website at <http://www.bathhousecultural.com/>

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