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Office of Cultural Affairs  
CITY OF DALLAS



Bath House  
CULTURAL CENTER

*The Heart continues to inspire artists at the Bath House Cultural Center*

The Bath House Cultural Center presents

**22nd Annual El Corazón Art Exhibition**

Curated by Jose Vargas

**February 6-March 5, 2016**

**Opening Reception with the Artist:** Saturday, February 6, 2016 (7-9 PM)

DALLAS - The Bath House Cultural Center presents the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual *El Corazón* annual exhibition, a mixed media exhibition with works by local and regional artists featuring an eclectic collection of art inspired by the heart (El Corazón), an important and inspiring symbol in art. Jose Vargas, a Dallas Curator and visual artist, has organized the exhibition since its inception.

The symbol of the heart has taken center stage in the art galleries of the Bath House Cultural Center for more than two decades. The unceasing popularity of this exhibition is proof of the everlasting appeal and interest that the symbol is able to generate in the mind of countless artists. There never seems to be a shortage of artists who are lured by the multifaceted aspects of the heart. The heart stimulates the imagination of an artist in many ways and the goal of this exhibition is to share the fascinating ideas and concepts that informed the work of the participating artists.

The eclectic nature of the show engages the public in interesting ways. The viewer, for example, can admire a work of art that explores love in all its complex, and sometimes divergent, ways. Romantic fulfilled love is contrasted in the gallery with art

pieces that investigate unreciprocated love and disillusionment with the same level of intensity. In the exhibition, the heart also represents connections with personal identity and with a person's views on social and political issues. Regardless of their intention or direction, the featured works of art share a common link in that all of them were motivated by a strong and passionate desire to communicate a highly intimate story or idea that would have otherwise remained private had the artist not had a theme as revealing as the heart, and anything associated with it, as their inspiration.

**Participating Artists:** Thomas Alonso, Robin Bachtler Cushman, Mauricio Stephan Barragan, Sal Barron, Dan Birlew, Lindsay Brennan, Chelsea Brock-Hoberer, Tarran Caldwell, Kim Carothers, Gabrielle Castañeda-Pruitt, Cynthia M. Daniel, Danielle Dillon, Dan Dudley, Brett Dyer, Cenya Eichengreen, Colleen Falco, S.G. Garcia, Jessica Gengenbach, Denise Althea Graham, Michael Graham, Cynthia Green, Rebecca Guy, Julie Henslee, Orlando Hernandez, Bobbie Howard, La Quinta Howard, Joanna LaGrone-Headrick, Eli Lorenz, S. Chuck McCarter, Rose Marie Mercado, Vincent Morin, Jr., Louise Murdock, Kristi Angelic Narvaez, Rebeca Navarro, Johnny Perez, Kathleen A. Raymond, Esperanza B. Rodriguez, Carlos Quadra, Liliana Ramirez, Ann Ranson, Marty Ray, Richard Ray, Marc Reeves, Janet Reynolds, Evelyn Rojo, Lesley Rucker, Balmore Salazar, Lowell Sargeant, Kate Schatz, Elizabeth Schowachert, Sabine Senft, Kelly Shipley, CeCe Skeith, Pam Stern, Sammy L. Thomason, Alexandra Tomalá, Jose Vargas, VET, Lisa Vollrath, Patricia Waas, and M.E. Wilcox.

#### **About the exhibition curator:**

Jose Vargas has curated this exhibition since 1993. He has said that he who got the inspiration for the name of the exhibition from a deck of cards from the Mexican Loteria (a game similar to Bingo) that had a captivating picture of the heart with its name in Spanish. Mr. Vargas is an independent exhibition curator and a visual artist from Dallas. He has displayed his photographs and mixed media art extensively in local and regional art venues. Mr. Vargas is known for starting the annual tradition of the El Corazón and Virgen de Guadalupe exhibitions, two popular gallery shows in Dallas. He has organized both shows for the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs since 1993 and has received praise for his curatorial work.

Please visit [www.bathhousecultural.com](http://www.bathhousecultural.com) for more information and to preview selected art pieces from the exhibition in the Photo Gallery.

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

Publication of photographs must contain the credit line provided on the webpage. Photographs may only be used for promotional, educational, or non-commercial purposes.

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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.

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**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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