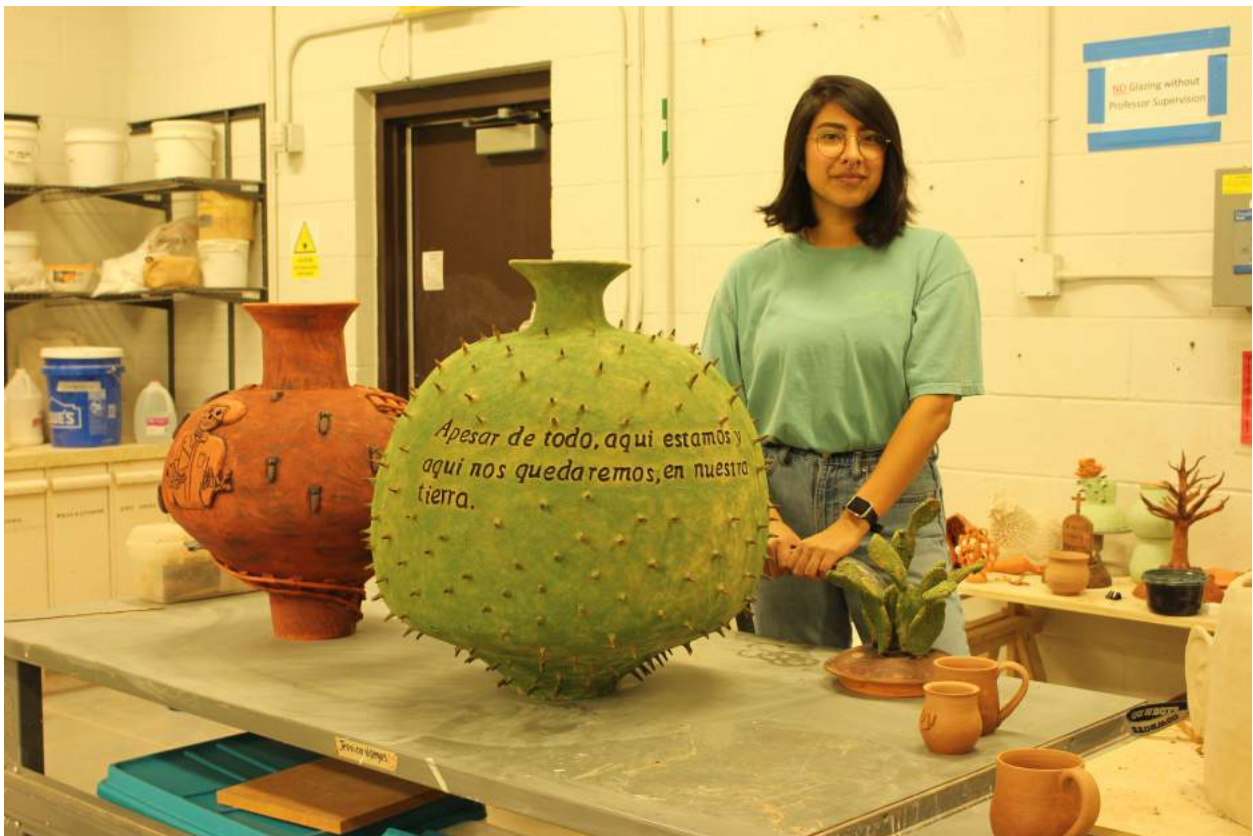


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All pictures are by Raheleh Filsoofi and by students' official permission

Ceramics in the Context of Socially Engaged Art

Undergraduate Student Creative Work

Advanced Ceramics – Undergraduate level: Socially Engaged Art Through Ceramics

Students are required to create a website and blog for this class.

Jessica Villegas

Website: jdenisevillegas.com

Blog: <https://jdenisevillegas.com/blog>

Jessica Villegas is a multi-disciplinary artist and recent graduate of the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley with concentration on Ceramics. Using ceramics as a vehicle to address Chicanx narratives, Jessica exposes the buried histories of the Valley and creates a dialogue between her ceramic vessels and excerpts from Gloria Anzaldua's *Borderlands/La Frontera*.



Left Image: Medium: Handbuilt, Terracotta clay, Dried glaze cone 01, and 32x21x21 Inches, 2019

Right image: The view of her works at BFA exhibition at the Visual Art Gallery at the School of art at UTRGV Spring 2019

Shari Flores

Webstie: <https://www.shariflores.com/>

Shari Flores is a recent graduate of UTRGV and was one of thirty-eight artists-in-in-residence at the Chautauqua School of Art this summer. Interpreting everyday items through clay and installation, her latest work creates a dialogue between representative abstraction and the duality of identity, memory, and border politics.



Left Image: Medium: Handbuilt, Terracotta clay, Underglazes and glaze cone 04, 16x19x21x10 Inches, 2019

Right image: Handbuilt, Terracotta clay and metal, cone 04 18x12x6 Inches, 2019

Adilene Rosales

Webstie and Blog: <https://www.adilenerosales.com/>

Adilene Rosales uses ceramic art as a platform to raise awareness for childhood cancer, its progression and impact, and the lack of research development and funding for patients and their families. Adilene is a current senior at UTRGV and was one of thirty-eight artists-in-residence at the Chautauqua School of Art this summer. Continuing her mission, she donates %70 of the proceeds from her artworks to The Vannie E. Cook Jr. Cancer Foundation.



Left Image: "Diagnosed" Medium: Stoneware, Underglaze and glaze cone 5, 24x26x16 Inches, 2019
Right image: "Death", Stoneware, Underglaze and glaze, cone 5, 18x23x19 Inches, 2019

Elizabeth Gonzalez

Website: <https://egartizt.com/>

A Dinner Set for Cesar Chavez, was the foundation for a performative installation conducted in 2017 to commemorate the effort of Cesar Chavez, civil-rights activist and labor leader of the UFW. Food is the global language understood by all, and through home-cooked Mexican food served on a piece of history, Elizabeth pays homage to these efforts of resistance.



Performance, Ceramics Vessels and Food, 2017

Intermediate Ceramics – Undergraduate level

Special project: Gates/passages without the walls

Using the concept of a gate or passage, students created a sculptural form that is a response to current border and immigration issues. A gate is a complex concept, as well as a physical entity: it can be closed, but it also can be open at will; it is a channel that focuses attention on those that pass through it. Gates can exist without walls, too and in history, gates have served as much to honor those that enter as much as keep an eye on them (think of a Roman arch). Gates serve and observe those that pass in both directions – what would a gate itself say about what it has seen and the issues surrounding its construction? Students reimagined a gate as a tool and as a protagonist in the theater of the border. Students were encouraged to think specifically of the significance of the Rio Grande Valley and how this place could welcome those who cross the border. Students presented their narration through symbolism, metaphor, or abstraction, and prepare images that represent this region. Used form, texture, and colors as the language of their rhetoric.



Gate back and front: Raja Yeazji Ayoubi, Handbuilt, Terracotta clay, underglazes and patina 02, 2019



Gate back and front: Kristen Sanchez, Handbuilt, Terracotta clay, underglazes and patina 02, 2019



Left: Rocio Quintero, Handbuilt, Terracotta clay, Dried glazes and patina 03, 2019
 Middle: Gabriela Perez, bids, threats, Handbuilt, Terracotta clay, Glazes and patina 04, 2019
 Right: Veronica Camacho, Handbuilt, Terracotta clay, Dried glazes and patina 02, 2019

Graduate Student Research and Creative Work

Leticia Lowry-Garcilazo – <https://leticialowry.com/> - Mentorship 2016-2019

Leticia Lowry-Garcilazo is an artist, industrial designer, and recent MFA graduate from the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. Leticia’s MFA installation, “The Wound of the Malinches,” combined video and live performance with the creation and destruction of paper clay form, addressing the pain and violence of abuse against women cross-border.



Installation view of the Solo Exhibition at the Visual Art Gallery at UTRGV

Ricardo Ramirez Garcia-Rojas – ricardoramirezgarc.wixsite.com/earthworks - Mentorship: 2018-2019

Ricardo Ramirez Garcia-Rojas is a current graduate student at UTRGV. Combining his background in ecology and agronomy, Ricardo has worked towards developing *mycobricks*, construction brick based in mycelium-bound fungi and waste composites, and a sustainable and efficient system to isolate clay from the soil located close to the Rio Grande River. His methods have been developed in collaboration with Raheleh Filsoofi.



Flush of pink oyster mushrooms on the ceramic pieces – Clay isolation system