

# HISPANIC ART IN THE UNITED STATES



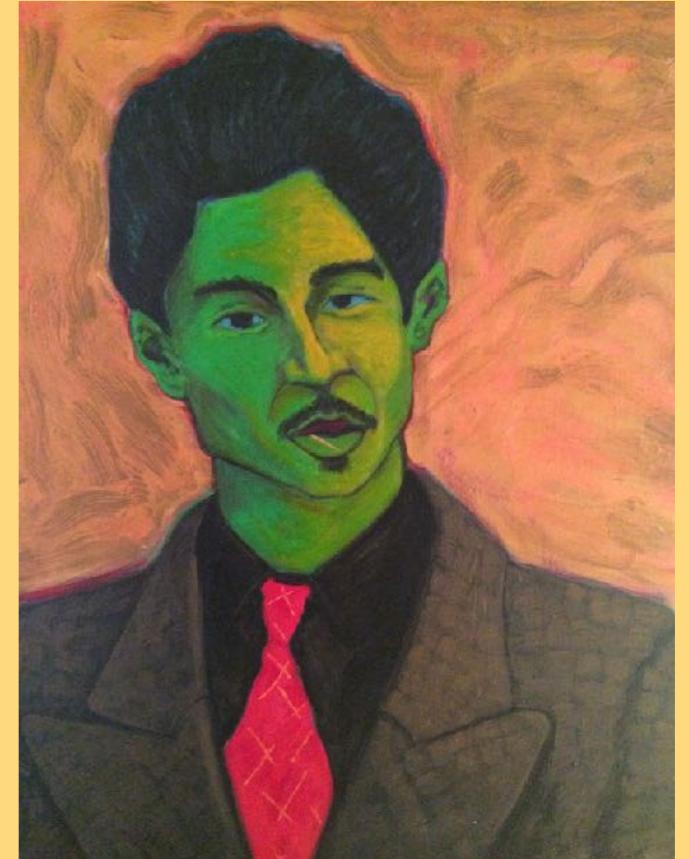
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# HISPANIC ART IN THE UNITED STATES

From 1987 to 1989, an exhibition entitled “Hispanic Art in the US” toured important US museums including the Corcoran, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum. The first major museum exhibition to survey in depth the work of contemporary American artists of Hispanic origin, the show's main premise was that a powerful, unifying commonality exists amid the diverse background of nationalities, histories and cultures that make up Hispanic America. The NY Times review called the premise “intriguing” and “not an easy one to make” given the diversity of nationalities and cultures that make up Hispanic America.

The argument the curators made is that these artists “share a mythic landscape of gestures and images, a predilection toward the figurative, and common antecedents such as the Mexican painters David Siqueiros, Diego Rivera and Rufino Tamayo” that reflect a common language which is "Anglo, yet tenaciously Hispanic."



Cesar Martinez *Bato con Toothpick* 1989  
Acrylic on canvas, 40" x 34"

That exhibition, plus our gallery's genesis in art of the Southwest, inspired us to bring the works of many of these artists to our Soho gallery beginning in the late 1980's. This catalog of works of artists exhibited by J.Cacciola Gallery over the years demonstrates the diversity yet commonalities in the art of artists ranging from Chicano artists in Texas border towns to the santeros of Northern New Mexico.

For inquiry on any of the pieces in this catalog, simply click on the image to send an email.

## ELIAS RIVERA (1937-2019)



*Dos Hermanas*, 1993

48" x 72" Oil on canvas

Elias Rivera, born in the Bronx to Puerto Rican parents in April 1937, was known for his exquisite depictions of daily life in the Americas. His long career began in NYC where his work focused on city life. But before long, he was drawn to the colors and the human drama of the marketplaces of Guatemala, Mexico and Peru, as well as his adopted home of New Mexico. Rivera died late last year from complications of Parkinson's disease.

# SUSAN CONTRERAS

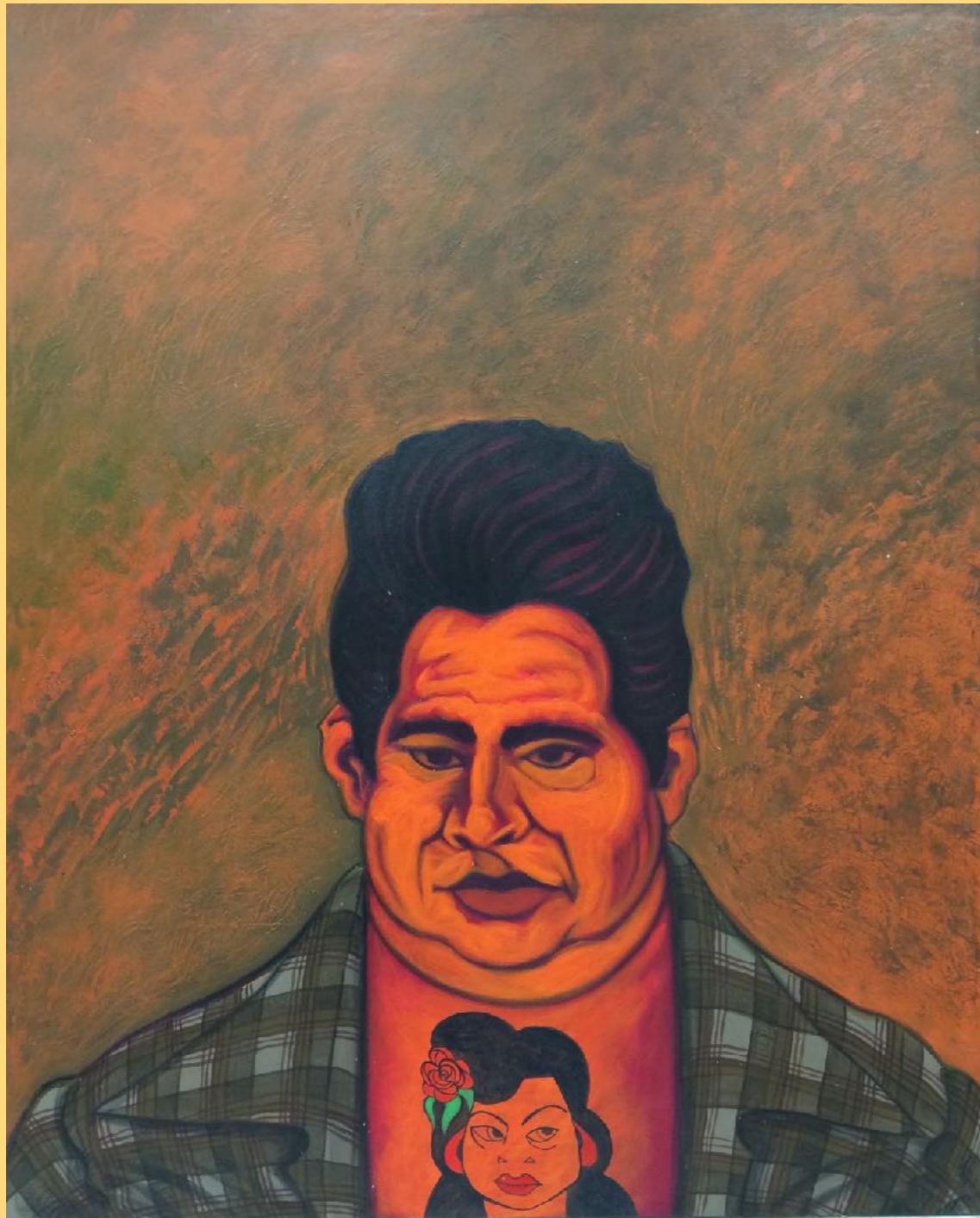


Susan Contreras, born in Mexico City in 1952 to a mother who was a portrait painter and a father a Mexican jeweler, moved with her family to Santa Barbara, California when she was age 5. In 1968 her family moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico so her sister could attend the School for the Deaf. Santa Fe is where Contreras still lives and works.

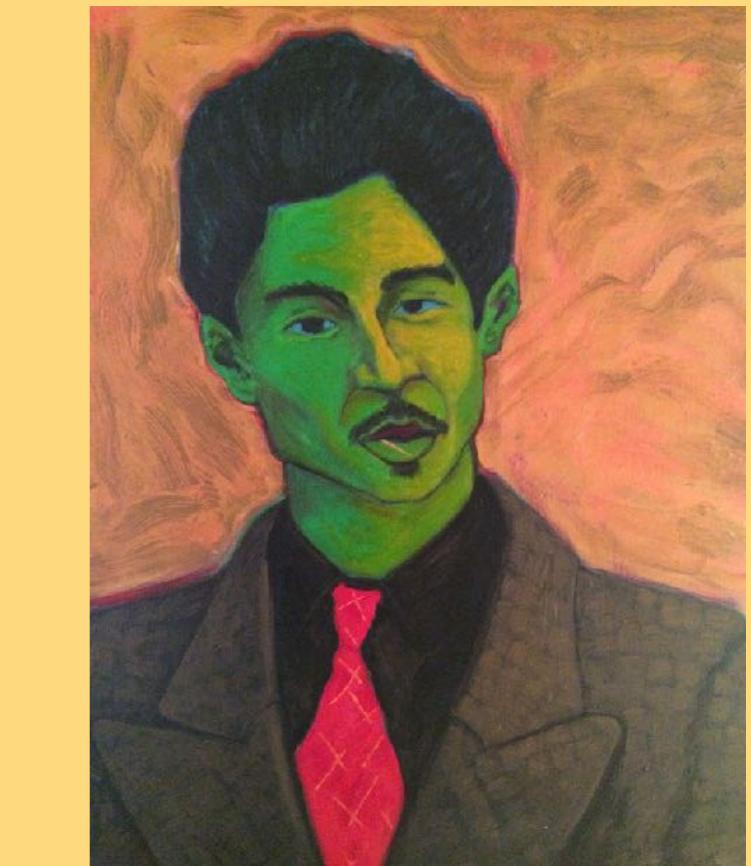
As she grew up, her family traveled frequently to Mexico where she became fascinated by ceremonies involving masks, such as the Day of the Dead. These drama and color of these ceremonies provide the inspiration of her work.

*Red Scarf*  
oil on linen  
18" x 14"

# CESAR MARTINEZ



A Man and His Dream Girl  
Acrylic on canvas, 54" x 44"



Cesar Martinez *Bato con Toothpick* 1989  
Acrylic on canvas, 40" x 34"

*Guadalupe*  
acrylic on canvas, 30" x 24"

Cesar Martinez, born in 1944 in Laredo, Texas, was a major figure in the Chicano Art Movement of the late 1970s and 1980s. He is known for his figurative work, most notably imaginary portraits grounded in real life.

## GILBERT “MAGU” LUJÁN (1940-2011)

Gilbert Luján, known professionally as “Magu”, was a well-known and highly influential artist in the Chicano movement. Born in California to Mexican parents, Luján, a sculptor, painter and muralist, was one of the first East LA artist to organize exhibits to establish Chicano Art as a valid form of artistic expression. His art was heralded for its colorful imagery and anthropomorphic animals.



Untitled, 1989  
Acrylic on paper 25" x 30"

Untitled, 1989  
Pastel, 26" x 40"

# RUDY FERNANDEZ



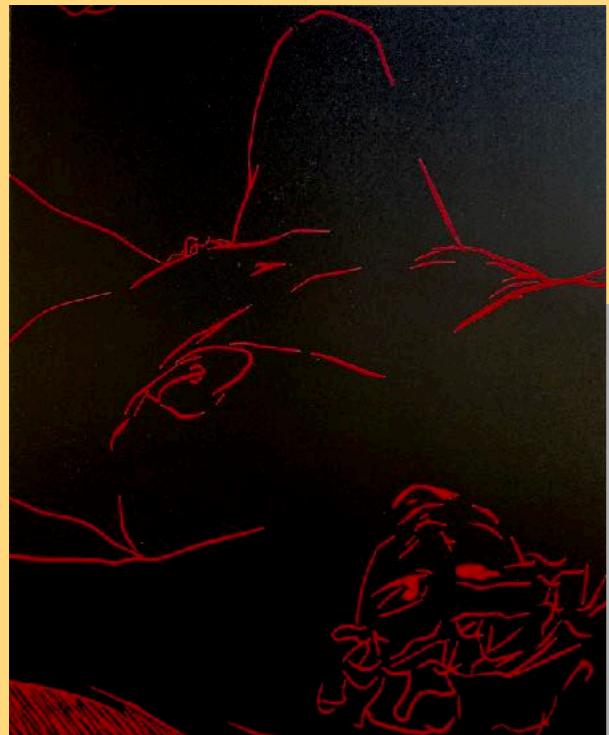
Rudy Fernandez, a sculptor and visual artist, was born in Colorado near the New Mexico state line. While his family on both sides had lived in the United States for generations, his father made him aware of his Mexican heritage.

"In 1975, while teaching in Mexico City, Colorado-born Rudy Fernández saw for the first time an exhibition of the works of Frida Kahlo. Frustrated that his formal art education had excluded the arts of Mexico, Central, and South America, he was determined to learn more about what he calls "pre-Cortesian" art. Since then he has developed a personal vocabulary of visual symbols, a unique vernacular that blends Chicano, Mexican, and Anglo artistic and cultural references" - Smithsonian American Art Museum.

His work, known as pop, high concept, has influences of the Hispanic folk art of metallurgy and iconography.

Untitled  
multimedia  
36" x 18"

# TINA FUENTES

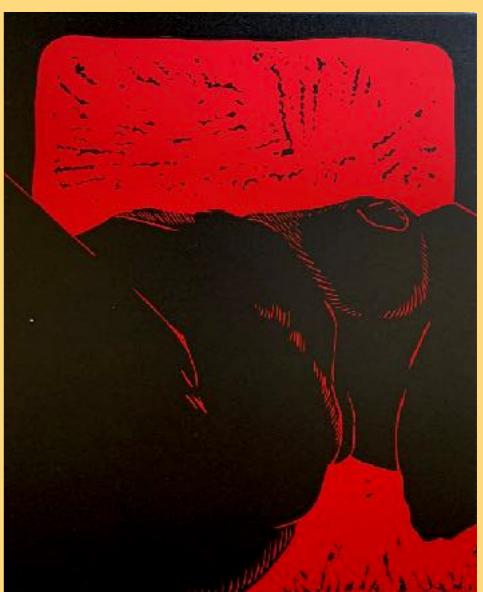
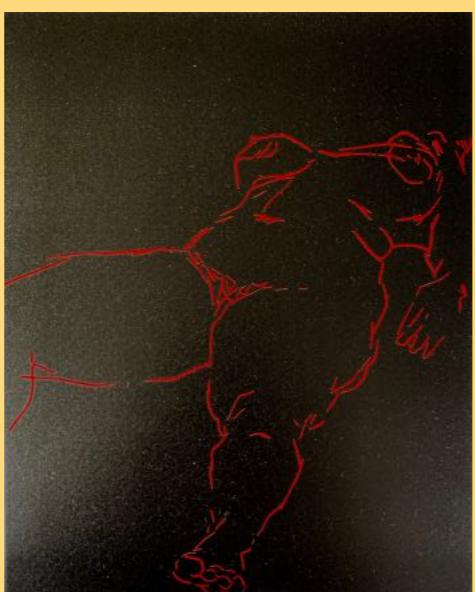
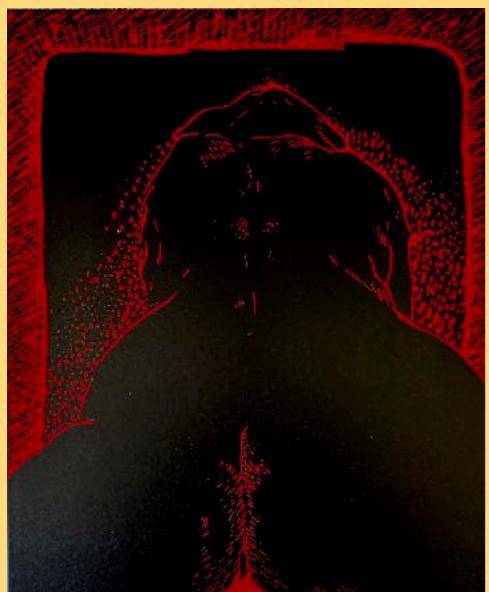


*Las Mujeres Hablan,*  
a portfolio of 6 linocut prints  
image of each 16" x 14"  
ed. 7/35

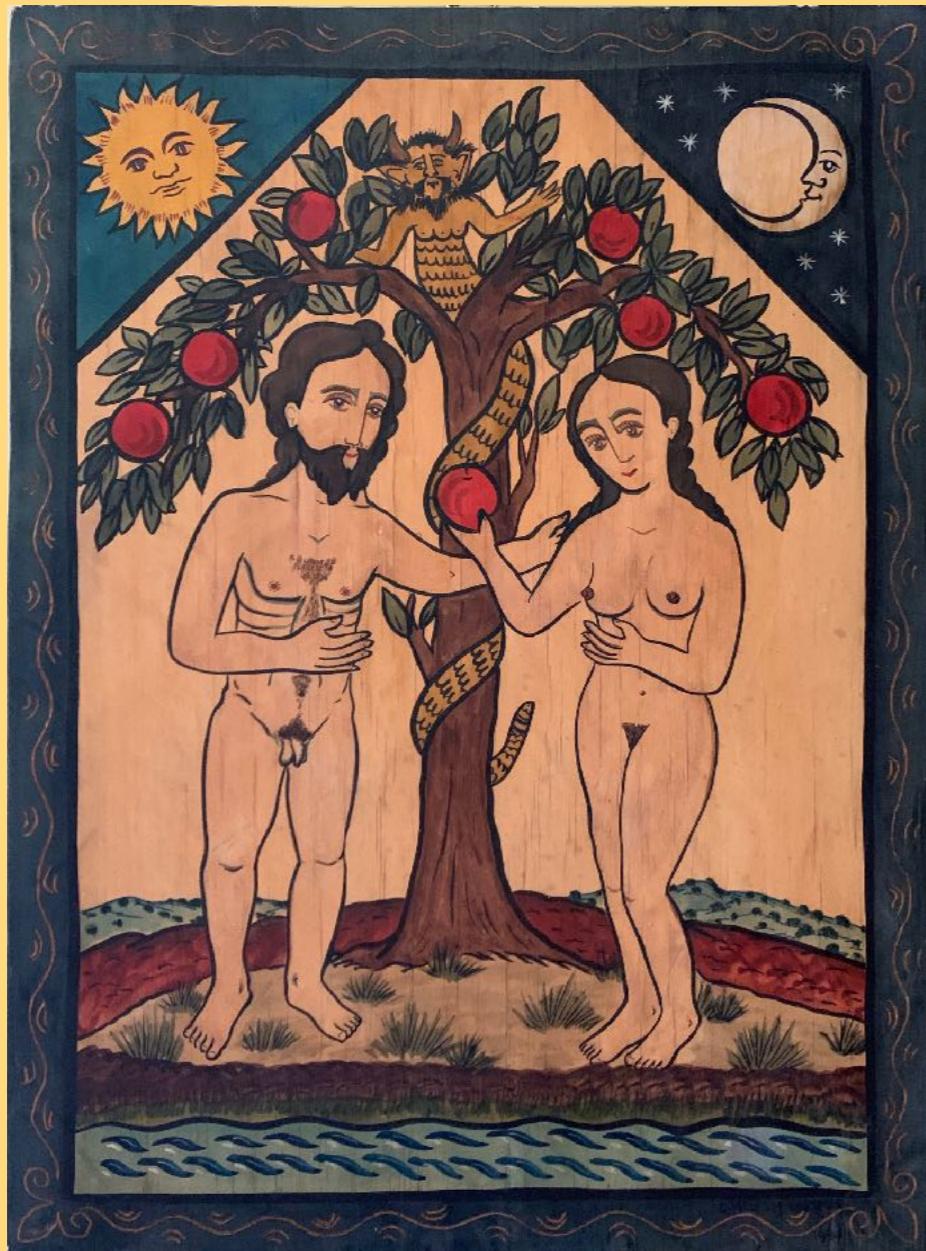
**Si nomás pudiera ir y venir  
sin tanto dolor  
¡Qué simple sería la vida!  
Esta vida que siempre  
carga sus sombras  
Unas sombras tan negras  
  
Preséntame una paloma blanca  
la palomita que canta con alegría  
Necesito oírla  
sentirla  
y vivir con ella**

"My paintings are biographies and self-portraits" says Fuentes. "I try to absorb what I see and translate that with who I am and where I am in life. I transform the painting materials into my language."

A Latina born in San Angelo, Texas in 1949, Fuentes currently lives in West Texas and is a professor in the School of Art at Texas Tech.



# SANTEROS OF NEW MEXICO: CHARLIE CARRILLO



Adam and Eve, 1993

Hand Adzed pine, natural pigments

Charlie Carrillo is an artist, author and archaeologist who's been making *santos* since 1978. Carrillo is at the forefront of his craft and has received numerous awards, including the Museum of International Folk Art's Hispanic Heritage Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Spanish Market, both in Santa Fe. Originally from Albuquerque, Charlie lives with his family in his wife's ancestral home in the village of Abiquiu, NM.



Nuestro Señora de Dolores, 1995



San Isidro

# SANTEROS OF NEW MEXICO: EULOGIO AND ZORAIDA ORTEGA



Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1990  
26.5"×16"×6"



St. Jude, 1990  
26.5"×16"×6"

Husband and wife team Eulogio and Zoraida Ortega began making santos later in life, in 1975, after Eulogio had already served in the army and worked as a school principal and Zoraida retired from teaching. Eulogio had originally studied art education and had received a master's degree in painting and sculpture, so woodcarving came naturally...His wife Zoraida, an award-winning weaver, would become his collaborator and the painter of Eulogio's carvings. The couple's work is nationally known and collected by both private individuals and museums. Perhaps their best known and most revered work is the Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Chapel, constructed by the couple as a testament of faith after Zoraida's battle with cancer. The chapel, located in Velarde, NM, brought visitors from around the world for its beauty and for healing.

Eulogio Ortega (1917-2017)  
Zoraida Ortega (1981-2012).



Nativity, 1992

# SANTEROS OF NEW MEXICO

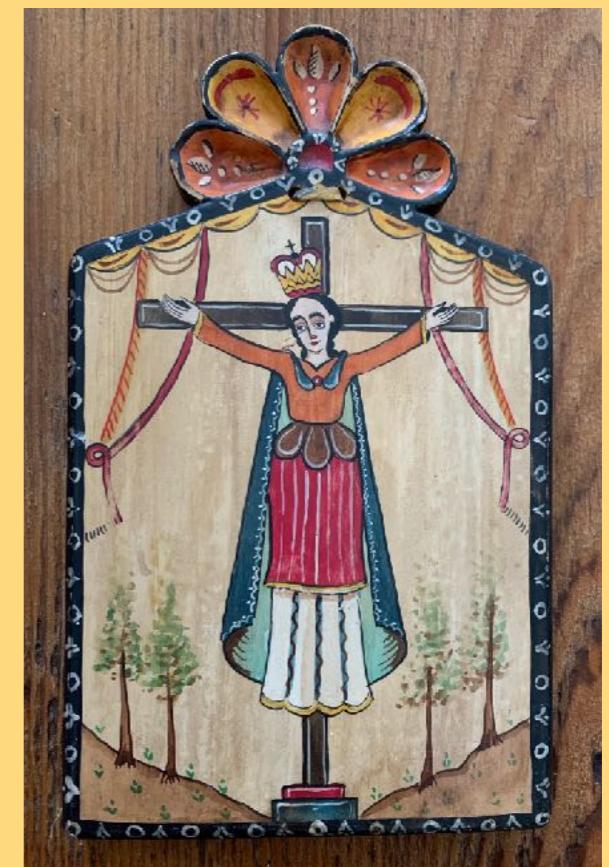
David Nabor Lucero  
Santa Rita de Casia, 1993



David Nabor Lucero  
San Miguel Archangel, 1996



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Victor Goler  
San Libirada, 1993

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