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LA REUNION TX ANNOUNCES ARTIST PARTICIPANTS FOR FIFTH ANNUAL ART CHICAS AND NEW ART CHICOS PROGRAM

La Reunion TX, the developing artists' residency program in west Oak Cliff, has announced the artists who will participate this fall in its new Art Chicos program and its highly successful Art Chicas program. Art Chicas brings together artists and high-school age students in an extraordinary art-making experience at an outdoor location in west Oak Cliff. The purpose of Art Chicas is to expose students to the possibilities of art, art-making and the career of an artist, while giving them the opportunity to be inspired by the natural world. This year, County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia will serve as Honorary Chair.

The LRTX guest jurors selected the eight artists, which are Bernardo Diaz, Art Garcia, and Frankie Garcia for Art Chicos and Aralyn McGregor, Lyndsey Rieple, Emily Riggert, and Jennifer Sereno for Art Chicas. The jurors were Anne Bothwell of Art + Seek, Michael Corris of SMU's Division of Art, and Katherine Owens of Undermain Theatre.

Thirty high school students have been invited to participate, half of each gender. The program will take place each Saturday in October 2011 on the LRTX site: 35 privately-owned, heavily-wooded acres that serve as an outdoor gallery. During a 90-minute orientation session the first Saturday, participants will meet, match up (four students per artist of the same gender), and talk about the creative process. The work will be created in full-day sessions, one for girls and one for boys, the second and third Saturdays. During lunch that day, a representative of the Dallas Art Dealers Association will speak to the students about careers in art. **On the final Saturday, October 29, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. artists and students will exhibit their work during a FREE reception to which family, friends and LRTX supporters are invited.** In the previous four years of the program, student teams have come from the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas, the Deaf Action Center, Buckner, DISD, Uplift Education and Pegasus Charter School.

Art Chicas and Art Chicos give these students the opportunity to participate in the creative process with an established professional artist, gaining a new outlook on art and artists and their life in general. Research by the National Endowment for the Arts has shown that being involved in an art-making experience will make students better audiences for the arts in the future and greatly increase the possibility that they will become artists themselves. It transforms the participating artists as well.



La Reunion TX is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to establish an artists' residency in Dallas, inspired by nature, which will sustain and renew artists and community through art, education and outreach.

For application and other information, contact Catherine Horsey at LRTX: info@lareuniontx.org or 214 394-3150 or Lisa Taylor at Dallas Art Dealers Association: info@dallasartdealers.org or 214 914-1099

SELECTED ARTISTS

ART CHICAS

Aralyn McGregor is a Dallas based artist specializing in oil, acrylic, watercolor and dry media. Aralyn holds a BFA in Studio Art from the University of North Texas School of Visual Arts. She has taught middle and high school art at Williams Preparatory in Dallas and currently teaches AP studio art. Aralyn also creates freelance commission work for venues and individuals. Her most recent series of paintings deal with the flaws of memory and perception through atmospheric and figurative juxtaposition.

Lindsey Rieple always has drawn people and utilized the resources around her to design and create two and three-dimensional art. She lets materials and the human form direct and inspire her to create jewelry, drawings, and paintings. She is currently finishing her degree in Jewelry and Metalsmithing at the University of North Texas. Her work decorates the body with organic forms and mixtures of materials such as brass, silver, wood, leather, and found or overlooked objects.

Emily Riggert was born in Dallas, Texas in 1986. She studied art at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. Her work explores the persistent forces of growth and decay in the natural world, and has been seen at the Dallas Museum of Art, The San Antonio Art League, and the Michael and Noemi Neidorff Gallery at Trinity University. She currently lives and works in Oak Cliff.

Jennifer Sereno is a married mother of two who has dedicated her life to art. Born in Tacoma, WA she came to Texas as a child and has lived in Dallas for 11 years. Her original works are created using an amalgamation of nature's offerings in a combination of stone, clay, glass and found objects. Her works are primarily additive in nature and are best described as earth's elemental antiquity, represented in modern art. Her art is both tactile and visually stunning, tapping into the geology of the human soul.

ART CHICOS

Bernardo Diaz is a MFA Graduate from Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University and is currently serving as artist in residency with the Division of Art. Diaz's studio work is a reflection of the synthesis of mainstream and alternative aesthetics, materials, concepts, and artistic processes. Additionally, Diaz currently is working with four undergraduate artists in developing a cultural arts curriculum by engaging with students at the Bataan and McMillan Community Centers of West Dallas.

Art Garcia is an artist and designer with 24 years of design and illustration experience. Since 1990, Garcia's artwork has been featured in national and international publications, and has been honored with numerous awards. He has created art for the City of Dallas, the city of Southlake, the Meadows School of the Arts, The University of Texas at Dallas and The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. He recently completed a solar installation for BRW Architects and the Dallas Fire Departments' Station 33, a seating element at The Dallas Farmers Market and two murals for the Grawlyer Park Branch of the Dallas Public Library.

Frankie Garcia is a self-taught artist, originally from southern California, but was raised in the inner city of Dallas. He is a philanthropist, creative director and interior designer. He has worked with Rutherford's Designs and the Nasher Sculpture Center. His style is abstract constructivism that uses numerous elements such as canvas, metals, wood, paper, mixed media and an array of industrial hardware.