

ARTISTS' STATEMENT

Más Rudas: To Be Tough, to Be Defiant, and Without Apology

Ruth Leonela Buentello, Sarah Castillo,
Kristin Gamez, and Mari Hernandez

Más Rudas is a Chicana art collective based in San Antonio, Texas. The group is comprised of four members who have been creating installations together since 2009. Their name—*Más Rudas*—is a collectively created phrase that has multiple definitions. *Más* expresses exaggeration, encompassing our multiple voices, and places an emphasis on *Rudas*. *Rudas* challenges the view of women as subordinate, passive, inferior, dainty, and polite.

Our multi-media installations are educational, promote dialogue, confront the traditional canon of art, and create a space to address our personal and social identities. To design our installations, we research, reflect, and create collaboratively. Our mediums consist of video, photography, painting, sculpture, fiber, performance, audio, and text.

Our non-traditional ways of presenting our work are inspired by our bicultural experiences. Those experiences are rooted in a Do It Yourself (DIY) and rasquache philosophies.

Calling ourselves Chicana is a form of protest.

Many artists resist the term Chicana in fear of being pigeonholed and excluded from the art world. We feel that our Chicana identity does not



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hinder or limit us. Our work is influenced by our diverse Chicana experiences. What sets us apart in the scope of Chicana art history is the current time and our geographical location.

San Antonio fosters a unique bicultural experience that shapes our identities. It is also a source of inspiration that we have no fear of embracing.

Many have been there for us as we create our individual and collective pieces. Más Rudas could not have done any of its work without Cristina Ordoñez, Danny Delgado, Joe De La Cruz, Ricardo Briones, San Anto Cultural Arts, Natalia Ciolko, Esther Castillo, Chad Gamez, Karina Garcia, Kiana Garcia, Jacob Garcia, Guadalupe Cultural Arts, Patty Ortiz, Chris Davila, Cruz Ortiz, Elda Silva, *Good Morning San Antonio*, *Southside Reporter*, *La Prensa*, *BackBeat*, *San Antonio Current*, Pussy Foot, Lisa Frank, J.J. Lopez, Francisco Buentello, Ruth Buentello, Contemporary Art Month San Antonio, Rene Barilleaux, McNay Art Museum, Felipe Cardenas, Steve Balser, Mario Ybarra Jr., Karla Diaz, Slanguage, Wilmington Enrichment Community Artist Network, Joe Diaz, Dona Junta, Tony Lopez, Sheris Talavera, Claudia Zapata, MexicArte, Sylvia Orozco, James Huizar, Sam Coronado, Mario Davila, Richard Gamez, Lina Gamez, Texas Biennial, Kimberly Aubuchon, Unit B Gallery, Mark Hogenson, David "Shek" Vega, Guillermo Francisco Gaitan, Ruben Luna, Richard Polendo, Artpace San Antonio, Sandra D. Garza, Dr. Josie Méndez-Negrete, Adela Arellano, Dolores Valles, Southwest Workers Union, Genaro Lopez, Tanya Garduño, Patricia Castillo, Bonnie Cisneros, Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS), Manny Castillo, Melody Lopez, Office of Cultural Affairs San Antonio, Animal Care Services, and SpaySA.

As a collective, we recognize each other's gifts and honor the work we bring to life with the support of others. Art is a social and cultural expression that speaks to our relationships in the world. Our commitment, as Más Rudas, is to create the discomfort that challenges us to create the work we imagined.