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**MECA and UHD O’Kane Gallery to co-present exhibition of Tejana artists Tina Fuentes, Delilah Montoya, and Kathy Vargas Voices in Concert: In the Spirit of Juana Inés de la Cruz**

Dates: Thursday March 26 - Friday April 24, 2015

Location:	MECA Dow School Lobby 1900 Kane Street Houston, Texas 77007	O’Kane Gallery - UHD One Main Street Houston, Texas 77002
Time:	Weekdays 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Weekdays 10:00 - 5:00 p.m. Saturdays 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Opening reception will be on Thursday, March 26, 2015, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at O’Kane Gallery.

Houston, Texas (February 24, 2015) — Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA) and O’Kane Gallery at the University of Houston-Downtown are proud to partner in presenting the work of Tejana artists Tina Fuentes, Delilah Montoya, and Kathy Vargas in the exhibition “Voices in Concert: In the Spirit of Juana Inés de la Cruz.” 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of MECA’s commemoration of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, the historical female icon of Mexican arts and letters. This year’s celebration of Sor Juana will honor the work of three Texas-based contemporary Chicana artists. Each artist in the exhibition demonstrates a different revelatory professional path that rewards the viewer with rich historical context through beautiful and unexpected contemporary visions.

The careers of Fuentes, Montoya and Vargas bridge life experiences that include issues of gender and racial inequality addressed by the Chicano Movement that began in the mid-1960s. The themes within their art speak to ideas of identity, freedom, transformation and exploration. Their work offers mature perspectives without obvious ties to historical documentation, thus allowing the artists to more broadly embrace their heritage in new and inventive ways.

Additional programming events for this exhibition include:

**Wednesday March 25, 2015 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Gallery Talk with Ann Leimer, Ph.,D and Catalog Signing at MECA

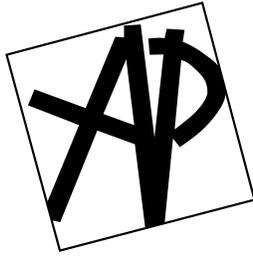
**Thursday March 26, 2015 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

Panel Discussion with the artists, moderated by Dr. Leimer, at the University of Houston (Main Campus), School of Art, Room 110

**Thursday March 26, 2015 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Exhibition Reception and Opening for “Voices in Concert: In the Spirit of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz” will be held at the O’Kane Gallery, University of Houston-Downtown

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## **About the Artists**

### **Tina Fuentes**

Born in 1949 in San Angelo and raised in Odessa, Texas, Tina Fuentes earned B.F.A. (1973) and M.F.A. degrees (1975) at North Texas State University in Denton, Texas, where she trained in painting, drawing and printmaking. Fuentes commenced her teaching career in public schools and went on to teach at the University of Albuquerque and the University of New Mexico. Since 1986, she has taught at the School of Art at Texas Tech University, where she directed the school from 2009 to 2013; she holds the rank of Full Professor.

### **Delilah Montoya**

Delilah Montoya was born in 1955 in Fort Worth, Texas, was raised in the Midwest and studied art in New Mexico, the home of generations of her family. She supported herself as a medical photographer on the way to earning an MFA in Printmaking (1999) and an MFA in Studio Art (1994) from the University of New Mexico. Since then she has taught at various universities and exhibited widely around the nation and abroad. In 2001, she began teaching photography at the University of Houston; she is currently Full Professor at that institution.

### **Kathy Vargas**

Artist/photographer Kathy Vargas is Associate Professor of Art at the University of the Incarnate Word. Born in 1950 and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Vargas earned a BA in Fine Art (1981) and an MFA (1984), both with a concentration in photography, from the University of Texas at San Antonio. After serving as the Director of the Visual Arts Program of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center in San Antonio, from 1985 to 2000, Vargas began teaching at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. In 2006, she was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at that institution. From 2006 to 2011, she served as the director of the Semmes Gallery as well as chair of the Art Department at Incarnate Word.

### **About MECA and MECA Performing Arts**

**MECA** is a community-based nonprofit organization committed to the healthy development of underserved youth and adults through arts and cultural programming, academic excellence, support services, and community building. For more information about MECA, please visit [www.meca-houston.org](http://www.meca-houston.org).

**MECA Performing Arts** is a platform that convenes community through the arts and encourages dialogue about issues ranging from social justice and equity to diversity and community transformation. From incubating works in progress to presenting local and touring artists, MECA seeks to work with innovative and socially engaged artists whose work expands the boundaries of tradition and practice. MECA is especially interested in projects that bring to light the experiences of life on the margins of societies, economies, and cultures.

### **About O’Kane Gallery - University of Houston Downtown**

The University of Houston-Downtown is a comprehensive four-year university offering bachelor’s and selected master’s degree programs and providing strong academic and career preparation as well as life-long learning opportunities. Located in the heart of the city, the University reflects the diversity of the Greater Houston Area, and through its academic programs engages with the community to address the needs and advance the development of the region. UHD is an inclusive community dedicated to integrating teaching, service and scholarly research to develop students’ talents and prepare them for success in a dynamic global society.

The O’Kane Gallery has served the university and the Houston community since 1970, providing diverse programming from student exhibitions to emerging, established, and historical artists. For more information about the O’Kane Gallery, please visit [www.okanegallery.uhd.edu](http://www.okanegallery.uhd.edu) or call 713-221-8042.

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