



BIOGRAPHY: [Michelle Angela Ortiz](#) is a visual artist/ skilled muralist/ community arts educator who uses her art as a vehicle to represent people and communities whose histories are often lost or co-opted. Through painting, public art installations, and community arts practices, she creates a safe space for dialogue around some of the most profound issues communities and individuals may face. Her work tells stories using richly crafted and emotive imagery to claim and transform spaces into a visual affirmation that reveals the strength and spirit of the community.

For eighteen years, Ortiz continues to be an active educator in using the arts as a tool for communication to bridge communities. As a highly skilled muralist, Ortiz has designed and created over 50 large-scale public works nationally (PA, NJ, MS, NY) and internationally. Since 2008, Ortiz has led community building and art for social change public art projects both independently in Costa Rica and Ecuador and through the United States Embassy as a Cultural Envoy in Fiji, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, Venezuela, and Honduras. In Cuba, she completed the first U.S. State funded public art project since the re-opening of the United States Embassy in Havana in 2015.

Ortiz is a recent PEW fellow, a Rauschenberg Foundation Artist as Activist Fellow, a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist National Fellow, and a Santa Fe Art Institute Equal Justice Resident Artist. In 2016, she received the Americans for the Arts' Public Art Year in Review Award which honors outstanding public arts projects in the nation. She is also fellow of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture Fund for the Arts (2011), recipient of the Leeway Foundation Transformation Award (2008) and Art & Change Grant (2013, 2012 & 2006.) She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Moore College of Art & Design and a Master's Degree in Science of Arts and Cultural Management from Rosemont College.

RESUME:

Education

- 2013** Maryland Institute College of Art, MFA candidate, June 2012- May 2013
- 2002** Rosemont College, Masters in the Science of Arts and Cultural Management
- 2000** Moore College of Art & Design, BFA, Summa Cum Laude

Solo Exhibitions

- 2017** *Quizas Mañana*, Taller Puertorriqueño, Philadelphia, PA
- 2012** *Aqui y Allá*, Mural Arts Program, Philadelphia PA
- 2011** *Marcadas*, McKinney Gallery, West Chester University, West Chester, PA

Permanent Collection

- 2017** Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016** Print Collection, La Salle University Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA

Group Exhibitions (abbreviated)

- 2018** *Wind Challenge*, Group Exhibition, Fleisher Art Memorial, Philadelphia, PA
Making Space, Leeway Foundation 25th Anniversary, Galleries at Moore, Philadelphia, PA
Into Action, Pop-Up Art Exhibition, Task Force, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017** *Revolutionary: A Pop-Up Street Art Exhibition*, Old City District, Philadelphia, PA
Truth to Power, Group Exhibition, 990 Spring Garden, Philadelphia, PA
Signs of Solidarity, Outdoor Exhibition, Little Berlin Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Art in Ad Places, Outdoor Exhibition, RJ Rushmore, New York, NY

- 2016** *Philadelphia, Goddamn*, Little Berlin Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Race and Revolution, Governors Island, New York, New York
Border Crossings, La Salle University Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 2015** *Después de la Frontera/After the Border*, Traveling Exhibition, Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD
Filadelfia: New Perspectives, Taller Puertorriqueño, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014** *Chicanismo y Latinismo*, Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD
Wilmington Trap Stars, Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, Wilmington, DE
- 2013** *Latino Artists of Pennsylvania*, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 2012** *Illuminate Me*, Multimedia Installation, Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia, PA
PAPELES, Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010** *Lo Que Aparece y Desaparece*, Taller Puertorriqueño/ Philagrafika, Philadelphia, PA
- 2009** *Yo Misma Fue Mi Ruta*, Leeway Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
New Works of Diverse Pennsylvania Artists, Traveling Biennial Exhibition, Penn State HUB Gallery/
The African American Museum, PA
- 2008** *Hispanic Lives: Simple Complexities*, Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, Delaware
Frida and Me, Common Threads, Projects Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Public Art Works (abbreviated)

- 2017** *Seguimos Caminando*, Monument LAB, Mural Arts Program, Philadelphia, PA
Flores de Libertad, Monument LAB, Mural Arts Program, Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
Living Walls/ The City Speaks, Living Walls, Atlanta, GA
- 2016** *Nuestro Andar Florece*, Barrio Roots Festival, Habitajes, New York, NY
Afuera y Adentro Fanzine, Santa Martha Prison for Women, Habitajes, Mexico City, Mexico
Luminosa: Fuerza de la Mujer Latina, Smithsonian Natural History Museum, Washington, DC
Somos Regla Mural, Meridian International Center/ U.S. Embassy, Havana, Cuba
- 2015** *Familias Separadas Project- Open Source*, Mural Arts Program, Philadelphia, PA
De La Memoria Al Muro Murals with Indigenous Migrants, Habitajes/ U.S. Embassy, Mexico
Un Nuevo Futuro Mural, Meridian International Center/ US Embassy, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Honoring Gloria Casarez Mural, The City of Philadelphia/ Mural Arts Program, Philadelphia, PA
The Doors of Destiny Mural, Congreso de Latinos Unidos/ Mural Arts Program, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013** *Juntos Creamos Nuestra Comunidad*, U.S. Embassy Cultural Envoy, Caracas, Venezuela
- 2012** *Aqui y Allá Transnational Public Art Project*, Chihuahua, Mexico and Philadelphia, PA
Construyendo Puentes de Igualdad Mural, U.S. Embassy Cultural Envoy, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2011** *Luz de Esperanza Mural*, U.S. Embassy Cultural Envoy, Vitoria, Spain
Journeys South Installation Project, Mural Arts Program, Philadelphia, PA
El Viaje Public Art Transnational Art Project, Mexico City and Puebla, Mexico
Finding Our Place, Digital Murals, Millersville University, Lancaster, PA
- 2010** *Tierra Nuestra Mural*, U.S. Embassy Cultural Envoy, Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, MX
- 2009** *El Nuevo Camino Mural*, U.S. Embassy Cultural Envoy, Juarez, Chihuahua, MX
- 2008** *Mothers of the Earth Mural*, U.S. Embassy Cultural Envoy, Fiji Arts Council, Suva, Fiji

Fellowships/ Grants/ Honors

- 2018** PEW Fellowship in the Arts
Rauschenberg Foundation Artist as Activist Fellow
John F. Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow
Santa Fe Art Institute Equal Justice Resident Artist
Wind Challenge Artist, Fleisher Art Memorial
- 2017** Window of Opportunity Grantee, Leeway Foundation
- 2016** "Familias Separadas" Project, Public Art Network Year in Review Award, Americans for the Arts
- 2014** Art and Change Grantee, Leeway Foundation
NFA Grantee, National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures
- 2013** Nominee for the PEW Fellowship In the Arts

- 2012** TCR Grantee, National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures
Grantee, Hispanics in Philanthropy
Art and Change Grantee, Leeway Foundation
Nominee for the PEW Fellowship In the Arts
- 2011** NFA Grantee, National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
Most Influential Latinos in the Delaware Valley Award, Multicultural Affairs Council, Philadelphia
Vision Award, Creative Artist of the Year, Hispanic Choice Awards, Philadelphia
- 2010** TCR Grantee, National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures
- 2008** Transformation Awardee, Leeway Foundation
- 2005** Art and Change Grantee, Leeway Foundation

Publications (abbreviated)

- 2018** "The Book of the Word", Petry, Michael, Thames and Hudson
- 2014** "Philadelphia Mural Arts @30", Golden, Jane, Updike, David, Temple University Press
- 2010** "Mural Art Book Volume 3", Isofidis, Kiriakos, Carpe Diem
"Aesthetics: The Making and Defining of Latino Art" Berry, Elizabeth, NALAC Brown Papers
- 2007** "My North Philly: Neighborhoods. Murals. Stories", Moller, Maria, Mural Arts Program
- 2006** "More Philadelphia Murals and the Stories They Tell", Golden, Rice, Temple University Press