

Izel Vargas

Education:

MFA – May 2007 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

BFA - May 2004 University of Texas- Pan American (now UT-RGV), Edinburg, TX

South Texas Community College (now South Texas College), McAllen, TX

Selected Exhibitions:

- 2025** *Far Becomes Near*, Bridge Red Studios, Miami, FL
Context 2025, Filter Space at Filter Photo, Chicago, IL
- 2024** *Third Places*, Manifest Center for the Visual Arts, Cincinnati, OH
Moments of Is: SDSU AIR Alumni Exhibition, South Dakota Museum of Art, Brookings, SD
- 2023** *Biennial Faculty Art Exhibition*, Schmidt Gallery, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
- 2022** *Contemporary Art of the Latin American Diaspora*, Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, Lake Worth FL
Composites and Constellations, The Frank C. Ortis Art Gallery, Pembroke Pines, FL
Recent Works, Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, Lake Worth, FL (solo)
But I Guess I'm Already There, Winona County Historical Society, Winona, MN
In Sight, The Art Grind, Danville, PA
- 2021** *Community in Collage*, Pacific Northwest Collage Collective, Fencework Gallery, Portland, OR
But I Guess I'm Already There, 410 Project, Mankato, MN
Caminantes, Projects Space at FAT Art Village, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Alumni Invitational, South Texas College Art Gallery, McAllen, TX
Biennial 2021, Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, Lake Worth, FL
- 2019** *CONstitution X: Our Human Rights*, The Box Gallery, West Palm Beach, FL
Alumni Four, McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Charlotte, NC
Arboreal, Bailey Contemporary, Pompano Beach, FL
Mextasy, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- 2018** *Outlaw Culture: or a higher ground*, Bridge Red Studios, Miami, FL
Mextasy, Shadefackenthal Library, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA
Mextasy, PFAU Library, California State University, San Bernardino, CA
- 2017** *the transphysics we knew about*, Prizm Art Fair, Art Basel, Miami, FL
Secret Objectives, South Texas College Art Gallery, McAllen, TX (solo)
Mextasy, Salisbury University, Guerrieri Assembly Hall, Salisbury, MD (traveling)
Biennial Faculty Art Exhibition, Schmidt Gallery, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
negentropy: to speak a language is 2 take on a world, Bridge Red Studios, Miami, FL
Mextasy, Malcolm Love Library, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA (traveling)
- 2016** *transphysics: istwa, landscapes, paisajes*, Art & Culture Center, Hollywood, FL
Artist in Residence Exhibition, South Dakota State University Ritz Gallery, Brookings, SD (solo)

- Southern Constellations*, American University Museum at Katzen Arts Center, Washington, D.C.
Artists in Residence Exhibition, Armory Art Center Annex, Lake Worth, FL
Mextasy, Penn Festival LatinX, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (traveling)
Mextasy, Arizona Historical Society Museum (Crossroad Talks), University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
Urban Art Junction, Studio A Pop-Up, Lake Worth, FL
Art Synergy, Benzaiten Center for the Creative Arts, Lake Worth, FL
- 2015** *Biennial Faculty Art Exhibition*, Schmidt Gallery, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
Eureka, Allcott Gallery, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
Mextasy + CECUT, The Gallery, Southwest College, Chula Vista, CA (traveling)
New and Now + Artists in Residence, Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL
Mextasy, Social Theories Lecture Series, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (traveling)
Expanding the Constellation, Artspace, Raleigh, NC (traveling)
Southern Constellations, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC (traveling)
- 2014** *Square Foot Art Basel Miami Redux*, Projects Gallery, Miami, FL
Mextasy, Department of Chican@ Studies, University of Texas – El Paso, El Paso, TX (traveling)
Southern Constellations, Smith Gallery, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
Comic Relief, Cabarrus Art Council, Concord, NC
Southern Constellations, Elsewhere Collaborative, Greensboro, NC (installation, traveling)
Mextasy, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign, Champaign, IL (traveling)
Mextasy, Boise State University, Boise, ID (traveling)
- 2013** *Erasure*, University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, La Crosse, WI
Animated! Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art, Greensboro, NC
Mextasy, University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Center, Seattle, WA (traveling)
Mextasy, Observatory Room, Brooklyn, NY (traveling)
- 2012** *Right Here, Over There: Place and Memory*, Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY
Izel Vargas: Recent Works, Sarratt Gallery, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (solo)
Mextasy, The Front- Casa Familiar, San Ysidro, CA, (traveling)
Mextasy, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO (traveling)
Mextasy, Multicultural Center, Ohio Union Art Lounge, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Ten Words/One Shot, Wiesbaden/Frankfurt, Germany
- 2011** *Exiles*, Belcourt Theatre Gallery, Nashville, TN (solo)
Mextasy, Centro Cultural of San Diego, San Diego, CA (traveling)
Mextasy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (traveling)
Mextasy, Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Honolulu, HI (traveling)
- 2010** *Necessary Fictions*, Golden Belt Room 100, Durham, NC
Mextasy, South Texas College, McAllen, TX (traveling)
Mextasy, Laredo Center for the Arts, Laredo, TX (traveling)
Recent Works, UNC - Carolina Latino Collaborative, Chapel Hill, NC (solo)

- 2009** *Fall Faculty Exhibit*, Art Institute of Tennessee, Nashville, TN
Exiles, South Texas College Art Gallery, McAllen, TX (solo)
Aspect:Ratio2, Irvine Contemporary, Washington, D.C.
- 2008** *Artist in Residence Exhibition*, McColl Center for Visual Art, Charlotte, NC
Reunion, Irvine Contemporary, Washington, D.C.
- 2007** *As of Now: A Collection of Rio Grande Valley Artists*, Ben Bailey Art Gallery, Kingsville, TX
Estados Jodidos, Fort Grunt Aquarium, Durham, NC (solo)
450 Women have been murdered in Ciudad Juarez, SAC Gallery, Stony Brook, NY
Introductions 3, Irvine Contemporary, Washington, D.C.
South Texas Heat, ¡Mi Taller! Studios, Mission, TX
New Currents in Contemporary Art, Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2006** *Amigoland*, Allcott Gallery, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC (solo)
Oculomotor, Allcott Gallery, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
14th Annual Crossing Borders Exhibition, Laredo Center for the Arts, Laredo, TX
Guadalupe, Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center, San Benito, TX
- 2005** *El Deseo de Mi Corazón*, Narciso Martínez Cultural Arts Center, San Benito, TX
Artist in Residence Exhibition, Rio Grande Valley Museum, Harlingen, TX
Plan B – An RGV Collective, The Loft Gallery, McAllen, TX
Cuatro Gatos, Murray State College, Tishomingo, OK
- 2004** *Visual Allegories*, BFA exhibition, University of Texas - Pan American, Edinburg, TX
Manichaus I, Manichaus, Edinburg, TX
- 2003** *33rd Annual Student Exhibition*, University of Texas – Pan American, Edinburg, TX
 *Texas State Bank Purchase Award – ‘Best in Show’ 33rd annual Student Exhibition
Pan Am Painting, Progreso Art Gallery, Nuevo Progreso, Tamaulipas, Mexico
Tlacuachismo, South Texas College Art Gallery, McAllen, TX
- 2002** *32nd Annual Student Exhibition*, University of Texas – Pan American, Edinburg, TX

Visiting Artist Lectures:

- 2024 Moments of Is, Panel Discussion, South Dakota Museum of Art
- 2022 Art of the Latin American Diaspora, Panel Discussion, Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, Lake Worth FL
- 2022 Guest Speaker, Boynton Beach Arts and Culture Center, Boynton Beach, FL
- 2021 Guest Speaker, University of Texas- Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX
- 2019 Alumni Four, panel discussion, McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Charlotte, NC
- 2019 Guest Speaker, University of North Carolina – Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
- 2017 Recent Works, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
- 2017 Secret Objectives, South Texas College, McAllen, TX
- 2016 Artist Talk- transphysics, Art & Culture Center, Hollywood, FL
- 2016 Artist in Residence, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

2016 Guest Speaker, Armory AIRs, Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts, Lake Worth, FL
2014 Southern Constellations, Elsewhere Artist Collaborative, Greensboro, NC
2013 Art Professions, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
2012 Right here, Over There, Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY
2012 Recent Works, Sarratt Gallery, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
2010 Exiles, Carolina Latino Collaborative, Chapel Hill, NC
2009 Exiles, South Texas College, McAllen, TX
2008 My Pocho Movidas- Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC
2008 Pocholandia, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
2008 Aesthetics of Desmadre, Duke University, Durham, NC
2007 Talk for Teens, Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, NC

Residencies:

2016 Stuart Artist in Residence, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
2015 2D Artist in Residence, Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL
2014 Southern Constellations Fellow, Elsewhere, Greensboro, NC partially sponsored by NEA
2008 El Status Studio Residency, San Juan, Puerto Rico
2008 McColl Center for Visual Art, Artist in Residence, Charlotte, NC, Fall Session