

Delia Tijerina Revilla

Artist Statement

ANITA TIJERINA REVILLA

Delia Tijerina Revilla is a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She grew up a working-class Tejana on the south side of San Antonio, Texas, and throughout her life faced incredible struggles due to poverty, sexism, racism, and abuse. In spite of all her challenges she single-handedly raised her three children and did everything possible to ensure that they could pursue their goals.

She started doing art in the fifth grade and throughout her life has sketched and enjoyed her work. When she was a child, her family did not give her much attention around her art, so she never felt motivated to pursue it. Later she and her late husband encouraged each other to draw, and they shared their art with each other. Once he passed away, when he was thirty-one and she was thirty years old, she stopped drawing for many years, as she focused all of her energies on raising her children. She became a security guard in the 1980s and worked late hours at a hospital; here she began to sketch again, on breaks and during down times. Still, she never considered herself an artist until she visited her daughter Anita in Las Vegas, who encouraged her to take an oil painting class with her at a local art store. The class was taught by a woman named Gabbie Hirsch, trained at Cornell University, a strong and nurturing teacher who dedicates her time to teaching students in the community—overwhelmingly retired women who have returned to their love of art in their senior years. Delia entered these classes in 2012 and flourished. Every time she visited her daughter, she would join her in class. Today she has moved to Las Vegas and is a regular art student and artist. She has created six oil paintings and is working on her seventh. Many of her paintings are adapted from the work of indigenous and Mexican artists. She often alters them to include brighter colors and tries to add her own sense of “life” to them. She is inspired to paint indigenous and Mexican women because she believes women have the power to do anything they set their mind to. She wishes to share her art because it is a way to express her self and a way to experience a sense of freedom.

This piece is entitled *Single Working Mother*, adapted from a painting Delia saw in a brochure from the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center in San Antonio, Texas. Delia sees herself in this woman's place—a woman who had to work to survive and support her children. She values the woman's hard work and commitment, knowing that the work represented in the piece is laborious and intense. Few people are able to do this kind of work—a labor of love.

cuses on narratives of rescue, migration, and motherhood in representations of women in the global South.

GISELL JETER-BENNETT is a PhD candidate in the History Department at The Ohio State University with a concentration in African American history, US history, children's studies, and youth development. She received her BA in history from Rutgers University in 2002. She received her MA in history from The Ohio State University in 2011.

KATHERINE M. MARINO is an assistant professor of history and women's, gender, and sexuality studies at The Ohio State University. She received her PhD in history in 2013 from Stanford University. Her work focuses on the history of feminism and women's rights in the Americas.

JAMES L. MOORE III is an associate provost in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, where he also serves as the director of the Todd Anthony Bell National Resource Center on the African American Male at The Ohio State University. Additionally, he is a professor in the College of Education and Human Ecology.

ADELE MURDOLO is the executive director of the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, a center of health promotion, research, and advocacy for immigrant and refugee women across Australia. She has completed a doctorate in women's studies and history and has research and advocacy expertise in the areas of immigrant and refugee women's feminist history, activism and identity, sexual and reproductive health, and the prevention of violence against women.

ANITA TIJERINA REVILLA is associate professor and director of gender and sexuality studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her research focuses on student movements and social justice education, specifically in the areas of Chicana and Latina, immigrant, feminist, and queer rights activism. Her expertise is in the areas of Jotería studies, Chicana/o education, Chicana and women-of-color feminism, and critical race and ethnic studies. After receiving her AB from Princeton University and her MA from Teachers College, Columbia University, she earned her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles, Graduate School of Education, in social sciences and comparative education, with an emphasis in race and ethnic studies. Her most recent publications are a coedited book titled *Marching Students: Chicana/o Activism in Education, 1968 to the Present* (University of Nevada Press) and an article titled "Jotería Identity and Consciousness: The Formation of a Collective Identity," published in *Aztlán: A Chicano Studies Journal*. She is working on

two books: *Raza Womyn Re-constructing Revolution: Building and Sustaining a Muxerista Consciousness* and *What Happens in Vegas, Does NOT Stay in Vegas: Social Justice Activism in Las Vegas*.

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LEONA SEVICK's recent poetry is published in *Barrow Street*, the *Potomac Review*, and *Slipstream*. She is the 2012 first-place winner of the Split This Rock Poetry contest, judged by Naomi Shihab Nye. She has also written extensively on the work of the American writer Willa Cather. Sevick is an associate professor of English and associate provost at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

MARJORIE C. SHAVERS is an assistant professor and the clinical director of graduate counseling at Heidelberg University. She has a PhD in counselor education from The Ohio State University and is currently a licensed professional clinical counselor and a licensed professional school counselor. Shavers has had many academic, clinical, and personal experiences that have contributed to her research interests. Her research agenda is divided into two distinct yet interrelated strands: studying how educational professionals and administrators can influence the experiences and overall well-being of students of color, particularly African American women, and examining the ways that individuals in general and African American women in particular use technology to explore and manage identity and foster communication and relationships. Consequently, Shavers's career is dedicated to improving the experiences of African American women and using her work as a counselor to address social and emotional needs.

CLEMENTINE "TINA" SLOAN GREEN is cofounder and president of the Black Women in Sport Foundation. She is professor emeritus in the College of Education at Temple University. During her thirty-two years at Temple University she was co-principal investigator of Sisters in Sports Science, a National Science Foundation-funded program. She was also director of the Temple University National Youth Sports Program. As the first African American head

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