

Susan Guevara

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Bio

Susan Guevara earned a BFA in illustration from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, CA, received honors at the Royal Academy of Fine Art in Belgium and studied independently with the Flemish impressionist painter, Remy Van Sluys.

She traveled to El Rito, New Mexico in 1989 for a brief stay then returned to her native California to start her illustration business. Ten years ago she established her permanent residence in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A children's picture book illustrator for the last 27 years, her work has been frequently recognized for its depiction of Latino culture. Among her acknowledgements, her work has been a three-time winner of the Pura Belpré Medal and Honor award, received the first Tomás Rivera award, and has been recognized as one of the New York Times 10 Best Illustrated Books of the Year. Her contribution to the book, "Chato's Kitchen", authored by Gary Soto, has been recognized by the New York Public Library as one of the 100 Best Books in the Last 100 Years.

Statement

"I am a visual storyteller. My illustrations, paintings, drawings and sculptures come from my devotion to creativity. It's been said, "Art saves lives." I think this is true. Art-making gives me a way to express my gratitude for being alive. Since I have been in New Mexico, my storytelling has taken a deeply personal turn and is now a more direct exploration of beauty and of life. There is no distinction between fine art and book art. It is all art. And, in my case, it is all about story.

Creativity is limitless. *We* are limitless. I want to explore and express that in my work. I want my students to understand and experience that. A by-product—a piece of art—is a natural extension of that exploration. In the best case scenario, that "product" helps another human being feel hope, feel limitless, feel connected. *Feel*. The act of creating is an expression of gratitude for this life. I want to extend that experience of gratitude and limitlessness to anyone and everyone who will receive it.

My father tells me often, 'Our lives are like books. We never know if our life book will have one page, many chapters, or even several volumes.' At ninety-one, he says we can be grateful for whatever length we are given. He is right."

EXHIBITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

- National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque, NM
“The House on Mango Street: Artists Interpret Community”, Group Show,
April 20- September 26, 2016
- The collection of David Lamb, 2015
- National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL,
“The House on Mango Street: Artists Interpret Community”, Group Show, 2015
- Santa Fe Community Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
“CHAIRS. Functional and Structural Chairs by New Mexico Artists”,
Group Show, 2014
- The TIA Collection, 2013
- Latino Folk Tales: Cuentos Populares, Art by Latino Artists
Smith-Kramer 3 year touring exhibit: 2011-2014
 - o Museum of Texas Tech Nov. 2011-Feb. 2012
 - o Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts, Steadman Gallery March, 2012
 - o Las Cruces Museum of Art September, 2012
 - o The Carle Museum March 2013
 - o Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum July, 2013
 - o Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ October, 2013
 - o Michelson Museum of Art January, 2014
 - o Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami November, 2014
- Richard M. Ross Art Museum, Ohio Wesleyan University. Group show, Northern NM artists
“New Art/ New Mexico” February-March, 2014
- Bond House Museum, Española, NM. With David Michael Kennedy and Nicholas Herrera
“Visions of the Heart, Images of the Road, Three Views from El Rito” Oct.-Dec., 2013
- Legends Santa Fe Gallery, co-curator with Nicholas Herrera, Group Show
“Espíritu Brilla!” July 2013
- Legends Santa Fe Gallery, “Mestizo”, two person show with Nicholas Herrera, July 2012
- The Kinship Project, The Butler Center, Dominican University, IL
Exhibit to commemorate 9-11, Fall 2011
- Sun Gallery, Hayward, CA 2015, 2011, 2009 Group show.
- Highsmith Corporation, private collection, WI 2006
- Mural, New Orleans Public Library Children’s Resource Center, New Orleans, LA, June,
2006
- Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 1995 Authors collections.
- New York Society of Illustrators Group Show, 1994
- International Children’s Book Fiera, Bologna, Italy 1991 Illustrator show.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 to Present

- Teacher/consultant/workshop leader, “Sequential Art Studies”, picture book and sequential art making.
- Fine Artist and illustrator

1990 to Present

- Fine artist
- Teacher/consultant of the picture-book-making process.
- Freelance illustrator specializing in children’s literature, both trade and educational work.
- National speaker at schools, libraries, and conferences on multi-cultural themes in children’s literature, the creative process, and the art of bookmaking.

1995 to 2000

- Guest faculty and MFA advisor at the Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Pura Belpré Honor award for Illustration, 2015
- New York Public Library acknowledgment for one of the 100 Best Books of the Last 100 Years, 2014
- New York Times Ten Best Illustrated Books of the Year, 2005
- Sigurd Olson Children’s book award, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, WI, 2004
- Daughters of the Republic of Texas Children’s Literature Award, 2000
- Book Links “A Few Good Books of the Year” 1995
- Child Study Children’s Book Committee Book of the Year 1995
- California Young Reader Nominee 1995
- American Library Association Notable Book 1995, 2001
- Pura BelPré Medal Award 1996, 2002
- Tomás Rivera Award 1996
- Americas Award for Children’s & Young Adult Literature Honorable Mention 1995
- Certificate of Excellence Parenting Magazine Award 1995
- Parents’ Choice Honor Award 1995

EDUCATION

- 2007 Portrait studies with Dawn Whitelaw
- 2004 Independent studies with plein air painter, Ian Roberts
- 1988 BFA in illustration, Academy of Art College, San Francisco, CA
- 1986 Intensive independent study with Flemish impressionist painter, Remy Van Sluys
- 1985-86 Royal Academy of fine Art, Mechelen, Belgium. Honors in painting and drawing

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2011-2012 Board member/Secretary, El Museo Cultural, Santa Fe, NM
- 2005 to 2011 El Rito Library School Liaison, El Rito, NM.
- 2005 to 2010 Board member/Event Coordinator, El Rito Library, El Rito, NM
- 2000 to 2004 Literacy Tutor, Truckee, California

ILLUSTRATED WORK

“Little Roja Riding Hood” by Susan Elya Middleton, G.P. Putnam & Sons, Spring, 2014

“The Wild Women of the Wild West” by Jonah Winter, Holiday House, 2011

“Voice From Afar” by Tony Johnston, Holiday House, 2008

“Numero Uno” by Arthur and Alex Dorros, Abrams, 2007

“The Lady in the Blue Cloak” by Eric Kimmel, Holiday House, 2006

“Tales Our Abuelitas Told” by Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy, Atheneum, 2006

“Chato Goes Cruisin’” by Gary Soto, G.P. Putnam & Sons, 2005

“Isabel’s House of Butterflies” by Tony Johnston, Sierra Club Books for Children, 2003

“Tiger, Tiger” by Dee Lillegard, G. P. Putnam, 2002

“Not One Damsel in Distress—World Folktales for Strong Girls” by Jane Yolen, Harcourt Brace & Co., 2000

“Chato and the Party Animals” by Gary Soto, G.P. Putnam & Sons, 2000

“My Daughter, My Son, The Eagle, The Dove” by Ana Castillo, Dutton Children’s Books, 2000

“Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Italy” retold by Virginia Haviland, Beech Tree Paperback 1996

“Chato’s Kitchen” by Gary Soto, G.P. Putnam & Sons, 1995

“The King’s Commissioners” by Aileen Friedman, Scholastic Books, 1995

“The Boardwalk Princess” by Arthur Levine, Tambourine Books, 1993

“I Have an Aunt on Marlborough Street” by Kathryn Lasky, Macmillan, 1992

“The Class with the Summer Birthdays” by Dian Curtis Reagan, Henry Holt, 1991

“Emmett’s Snowball” by Ned Miller, Henry Holt, 1990

AUTHORED WORK

“Literacy: a Path to Peace”, Paper Tigers.org, Sept. 2008

“Voices in First Person: Reflections on Latino Identity”, monologue contribution, edited by Lori Marie Carlson, Atheneum, 2008

“Stories Matter, the Complexity of Cultural Authenticity in Children’s Literature” non-fiction contribution, Edited by Dana L. Fox and Kathy G. Short, NCTE 2003

PRESS

“Visions of the Heart, Images of the Road”, Rio Grande Sun Arts review, 2013

“Through the Eyes of a Child: An Introduction to Children’s Literature” by Donna Norton/Hope Madden, Pearson Publishing, 2009

“Sorrow Sings: When Many Forces Converge to Rebuild one Library” by Sylvia M. Vardell, Surviving the Storm, Association for Childhood Education International, 2009

Preview magazine, 2000

“Eighth Book of Junior Authors and Illustrators”, edited by Connie Rockman, H.W. Wilson, 2000