



**MEADOWS MUSEUM ANNOUNCES
2017 MOSS/CHUMLEY ARTIST AWARD WINNER GIOVANNI VALDERAS**

Dallas, TX—March 8, 2018—The Meadows Museum at SMU announces that Giovanni Valderas has won the 2017 Moss/Chumley North Texas Artist Award. The award is given annually to an outstanding North Texas artist who has exhibited professionally for at least ten years and has established a proven track record as a community advocate for the visual arts. Two of Valderas’s mixed-media works, *AY TE MIRO* (2016) and *APACIGUATE* (2017) will be on view at the Museum throughout the month of April. The artist will give a free gallery talk at the museum on Thursday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Shelley DeMaria, curatorial assistant for the Meadows Museum and member of the jury said, “Valderas’s unique personal aesthetic, combined with an underlying message that encourages cultural awareness, and his commitment to the local community make him the perfect recipient of this year’s Moss/Chumley Award. We are so pleased to be able to recognize his work with this award.”

Valderas grew up in Dallas’s Oak Cliff neighborhood, an area in which rapid gentrification in recent years has been the inspiration for much of his work. Using newsprint, acrylic paint, and brightly colored tissue paper, among other materials, Valderas constructs piñata-like works whose power lies not only in their overt visual message but also in their environment. The artist often situates his works guerilla-style, outdoors among political yard signs and along the roadsides of commercial redevelopment projects, drawing attention to what is being lost as “progress” bulldozes its way across the community. He has received much acclaim of late for his project *Casitas Tristes (Sad Little Houses)*, illustrating the displacement of many Latino families from this deep-rooted community.

David Leggett, director of development for TACA and also a member of the jury said, “Valderas’s public art is symbolic, striking, and subversive. His playful and poignant *casitas tristes* spark important conversations about our city’s needs for affordable housing in diminishing multi-cultural communities. His well-timed art demands Dallas citizens to focus on social inclusion and community wellbeing.”

The Moss/Chumley Award was founded to recognize not only talented artists living in North Texas, but also to acknowledge those who have proven track records as community advocates

for the arts. Valderas served three years (2013–2016) as Vice Chair of the City of Dallas’s Cultural Affairs Commission, where he influenced policy and arts initiatives, advocated for arts funding, and helped to develop several new grant programs. In October, he was reappointed to the Commission to serve under Councilman Omar Narvaez and the constituents of District 6.

"I am extremely honored to accept the Moss/Chumley Award, joining past distinguished recipients such as Sedrick Huckaby, Annette Lawrence, Christopher Blay, and Frances Bagley," said Valderas. "I am grateful to be part of a legacy of North Texas artists who have contributed so much to our cultural landscape."

Valderas obtained both bachelor of fine arts and master of fine arts degrees from the University of North Texas in Denton. His work has appeared in solo exhibitions at the Galveston Arts Center, The MAC, Art League Houston Sculpture Garden, Box 13, Cohn Drennan Contemporary, and the Janette Kennedy Gallery, as well as in a number of group exhibitions over the past two decades. He has taught figure drawing and mural painting at UNT and has been a frequent presenter at the College Art Association and area museums. He is currently the assistant director at Kirk Hopper Fine Art, in Dallas.

The jury for the 2017 Moss/Chumley award included DeMaria and Leggett as noted above; Leigh Arnold, assistant curator, Nasher Sculpture Center; Joan Davidow, co-director, SITE131 and director emerita, Dallas Contemporary; Sedrick Huckaby, assistant professor of painting, University of Texas at Arlington and 2016 Moss/Chumley recipient; and Christina Rees, editor-in-chief, *Glasstire*.

Moss/Chumley Memorial Fund and Artist Award

The Moss/Chumley Memorial Fund was created in 1989 by Frank Moss and the Meadows Museum as a tribute to Jim Chumley; Moss's name was added to the fund upon his death in 1991. Moss and Chumley were two Dallas art dealers who made outstanding contributions to the visual arts in North Texas during the 1980s. The pair operated the Nimbus Gallery on Routh Street from 1980 to 1987 and the Moss/Chumley Gallery at the Crescent Court from 1986 to 1989, where they showcased numerous new artists.

Established in 1995, the Moss/Chumley Artist Award is given in their memory. The award—which carries a cash prize of \$2,500—is open to artists working in any medium who live in one of the eleven North Texas counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise.

Past recipients have included Darryl Lauster, Stephen Laphthisophon, Isabelle duToit, Juliette McCullough, David McCullough, Noah Simblist, Catherine Chauvin, Ludwig Schwarz, Janet Tyson, David Dreyer, Marie Van Arsdale, Sherry Owens, Kaleta Doolin, David Hickman, Tracy Hicks, Mary Vernon, Marilyn Waligore, Susan Kae Grant, and Bob Nunn.

About the Meadows Museum

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The Museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows's vision to create "a small Prado for Texas."

Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters. Since 2010 the Museum has been engaged in a multidimensional partnership with the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid, which has included the exchange of scholarship, exhibitions, works of art and other resources.

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