



UTRGV SCHOOL OF ART

2016

FACULTY SHOW

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The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley presents
an exhibit of recent work
by UTRGV School of Art faculty

Erika M Balogh
Marilyn Carren
Douglas Clark
Alexander Comminos
Rick Fatica
M.C. Farris
Philip Field
Susan Fitzsimmons
Robert Gilbert
Carlos Gomez
Stephen Hawks
Donald Lyles
Alejandro Macias
Maria Elena Macias
E. Corinne Whittemore
Lorenzo Pace
Julian Rodriguez
Reynaldo Santiago
Donna Mason Sweigart
Paul Valadez
Ping Xu



“The Pursuit of Happiness” (2015)

DIGITAL ART

ERIKA M BALOGH

My bi-cultural background has greatly shaped my identity and influenced my artwork as well. When I moved to the United States, I left behind a traditional part of my life associated with my Hungarian heritage, my childhood memories, and my family. I entered into an utterly different culture; a more modern and eclectic society that completely changed my life. However, aspects of my Hungarian traditions continue to form my artwork and my self-presentation.



“Gun Violence, War and Misery: The Message Won’t Materialize” (2015)

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

MARILYN CARREN

Marilyn Carren is an interdisciplinary artist and an educator specializing in photographic arts working in Edinburg, Texas. Her research agenda includes studying contemporary art practices that utilize alternative and historical photo processes. Marilyn weaves analog, traditional, historical and digital photography skills throughout her work. When utilizing primarily digital mediums she frequently explores photography in the 4th dimension, virtual space, and is fascinated by the new technologies that are informing current photographic theory and practice. Recent work explores the relationship of signal to noise in a photographic investigation of communication theory.

Her images have been published in national magazines such as Ladies Home Journal, Texas Monthly and Sculpture. She has displayed her work internationally at a rich variety of venues, including, at MacQuarie University in Sydney, Australia and at the International Colloquium “Debating Women: Past and Present” at Funchal, Island of Madeira, Portugal. She’s been interviewed by the Los Angeles Times and was a featured artist on the syndicated television series “Extra.” Marilyn earned her Master of Fine Arts degree from Goddard College in Vermont where she studied how to create art with the power to transform hearts and minds.



"The Vaquero" (2014 - 2015)

PLASTILINA (OIL BASED CLAY)
18" H. x 12" W. x 24" L.

DOUGLAS CLARK

Growing up in rural Texas Douglas has gained a love of nature and especially for animals. Many of his works are about animals or include animals. Nature establishes a pallet of endless variety and inspiration that he hopes is reflected in much of his work. The images of Texas cowboys, ranchers, workers and their wives are a staple in his works. Technology is another prevalent theme as Douglas has seen a lot of changes since his hand crank tractor days as a boy growing up on a farm replaced by the modern machinery and computer assisted equipment that we use today. All of these things work together to make the themes of the sculptures that he does come alive and speak to the public in Texas.

Whenever possible, playfulness is a good quality to work into a sculpture. Douglas believes a smile from the viewer is just about the best criticism that an artist can receive.



“Change in Direction” (2015)

CERAMIC UNDERGLAZE & ENAMEL

32” H. x 20” W. x 10” L.

ALEXANDER COMMINOS

My ceramic sculpture is a record of a personal expression, manifested into a material. Clay is one of mankind’s oldest and dearest friends. Using ceramic allows me to connect to the past, while moving the larger conversation towards the future.



“Memory” (2015)

C-PRINT

RICK FATICA

In a visual culture, I believe imagery is the best way to further discourse about suffering. Photographic images are a powerful way of telling a story as they are charged with emotion. Images can say much more than words can in a shorter amount of time, because they have an immediate impact. I use images to better understand and to reconcile the contradictions in life, such as the prevalence of human suffering and the natural beauty of the world. When I make a photograph (of a landscape), it becomes therapeutic. When I do this, I feel better, and meditate, and become connected with beauty of the thunder, the amazing stars, the wondrous majestic power of nature. This helps me to reflect and connect to a power greater than myself, putting life into perspective. An image of the landscape has meaning regardless of what is going on in the viewer’s life, whether in times of suffering or happiness. The images create a narrative, each like a scene from a movie. During a film we find ourselves in different scenes along the way, but ultimately we have a story.



“No Piece No Peace” (2015)

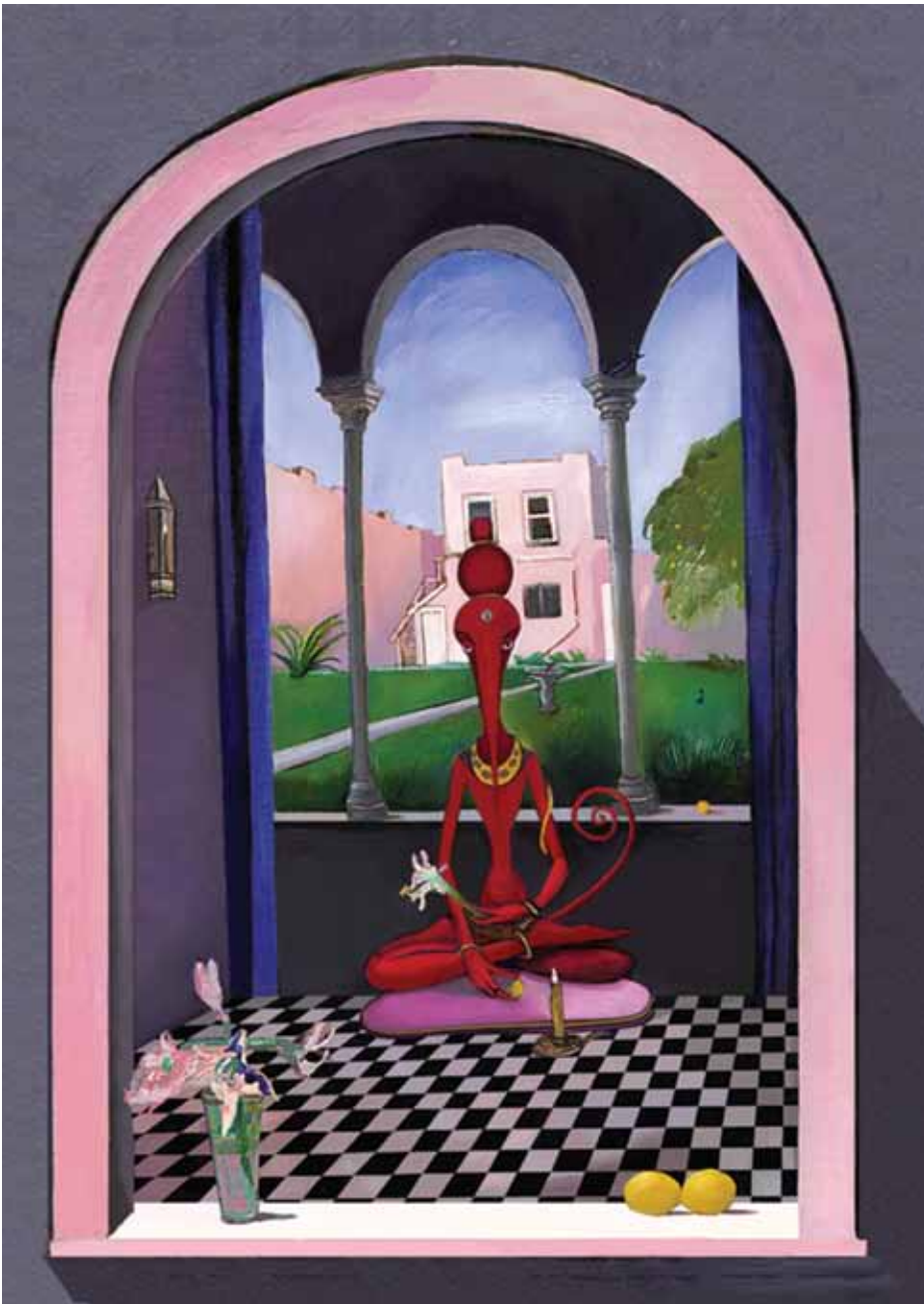
MIXED MEDIA / ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

30" x 36"

M.C. FARRIS

My work explores issues regarding the self, relationships, gender roles, sex, politics, short attention spans, memories and time, et al; therefore, it my intent to challenge people, their thoughts and ideas with my artwork. To do this one must awaken their cognitive states and processes including perception, sensation, memory, imagination, judgment, and language, as well as intelligence and other aspects of intellectual functioning such as knowledge, opinions and beliefs.

It is my hope that my paintings will allow people to confront their beliefs and look at every day events in a different light. It is suggested that certain elements make up human nature, one element being cognitive capacity, which is the ability to conceptualize, to comprehend, to evaluate and to rationalize others and ourselves. Therefore, through my diverse and divergent paintings, my intention is to activate my viewers' cognitive capacity, and since much of my work deals with issues that can be controversial, viewers of my work are forced to individually assign and attribute meanings and understanding to the world around them, thus my artwork.



“Meditation”

*painting created in 1987
and digitally edited in 2015*

PAINTING AND DIGITAL PRINT
13.5" x 19"

PHILIP S. FIELD

Philip Sidney Field was born in Brooklyn, New York and received his first art instruction in children's classes at the Brooklyn Museum of Art and private lessons in painting from the artist Evelyn Eisgrau. He studied summers at the Art Students League of New York in NYC and Woodstock, N.Y. and at the Yale-Norfolk Summer School of Art. Professor Field received his B.F.A. in painting from Syracuse University and his M.F.A. in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. He then studied for two years at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts on a Fulbright Grant in Painting.

His prints and paintings are in the public collections of Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, the Hunterdon Art Center, Clinton, New Jersey, The University of Dallas, Irving, Texas, the Tulsa City-County Public Library, Tulsa, Oklahoma, The Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, The Bank of New York Collection, New York City, N.Y., and The University of Texas - Pan American, Edinburg, Texas.



“Ancestor” (2015)

Installation at Sunken Gardens Park in San Angelo, Texas.

BRONZE

109” H. x 24” W. x 24” L.

SUSAN FITZSIMMONS

Director of the School of Art at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Marialice Shary Shivers Endowed Chair of Art



“Symbol” (2015)

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT ON CANVAS
36” x 24”

ROBERT GILBERT

My current work deals with documenting an urban landscape and looking for personal interpretations of what I find, as in the way one might interpret dream imagery. I love the corroded and rustic surfaces of areas well lived in, urban areas that will one day be torn down and lost.



“Fuck You!” (2015)

OIL ON HEMP
48" x 40"

CARLOS GÓMEZ

Born in Mexico D.F., Carlos G. Gómez found his first artistic expression in the “Tex – Mex” culture of the Rio Grande Valley in Brownsville where he was raised. “Brightly colored buildings and the surreal atmosphere of the Mexican border towns gave me the first appreciation of color, line, and the generalization that my chosen images would have to be bold and realistic,” explains Gómez. He obtained his B.F.A. at Pan American University and attended Washington State University for his M.F.A. in painting and drawing. In the course of his studies he went, from an interest in Renaissance style art to a self-ascribed “social-abstract-surrealism” and is currently exploring multi-technique painting and drawing.



“Formal Vessel / Threefold Now” (2015)

CERAMIC STONEWARE

17” x 44”

STEPHEN HAWKS

“Art is a spiritual path, a bridge extending the continuity of consciousness between sensory existence and the inner life of soul and spirit.”

Stephen Hawks, born in Washington D. C., has lived most of his life in Georgia. He has training in art, music, and theater, an AA in theater from South Georgia College, a BFA from Valdosta State University and an MFA, from Florida State University. He came to Brownsville Texas in the fall of 2012 to teach at UTB. Currently, he oversees the Ceramics Program in the College of Art at UTRGV on the Brownsville Campus.



“The Eagle Has Landed” (2015)

OIL ON CANVAS

13” x 21”

DONALD LYLES

Education:

MFA in 2000 from American University, Washington D.C.

BFA in 1995 from Kansas City Art Institute, K.C. MO.

Selected Professional Experience:

2008-2015 to present Associate Professor of Art UTRGV

2014 May-July Artist residency program Latuvu, Bages, Fr.

2006 to 8-2015- Associate Professor of Art teaching Painting and Drawing at UT-RGV, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

2005-06- Served with Shreveport Regional Arts Council’s Roster Artist Panel and Curatorial Committee for Cool-space.

2003-04 – Served as Lecturer at University of Louisiana Monroe.

2003 –2006 Exhibited with and Served on the Executive Committee for the EYE-XX Group.

1997 to 2006 – Served with Storytellers Inc. on Various Exhibitions.

Representation:

Has been represented by

ARTBOX Gallery, Indianapolis, IN.

ART House 1009 Laurel Ave. McAllen. TX. 78501



“Make America Hate Again!” (2015)

OIL AND SPRAY PAINT ON CANVAS

16" x 20"

ALEJANDRO MACIAS

Alejandro Macias was born and raised in Brownsville, TX. Although he always had an interest in drawing, he did not discover his passion for visual art until he attended and received formal training at the University of Texas at Brownsville. His love for visual art only began to intensify and after receiving his BA in Art, he moved to San Antonio, TX for a year to explore the city, and its culture. Upon his return from San Antonio, he attended University of Texas- Pan American to attend graduate school. After receiving his MFA with a focus in two-dimensional art, he began work as an Adjunct Instructor and Gallery Director for The Gallery at Rustenberg Hall at UTB. Through his studies, he explored animal and human anatomy, collage, and various painting and drawing techniques. He now works for The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley as Foundations Lecturer and Gallery Coordinator. His current work explores and infuses anatomy, and various elements of design that reflect his thoughts on particular subjects.



“Untitled” (2015)

OIL ON CANVAS
30” x 40”

MARIA ELENA MACIAS

UTRGV Associate Professor/Gallery Director

Maria Elena brings her experience as former Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and the International Museum of Art & Science in McAllen, Texas.

She directs two main art galleries, the Charles & Dorothy Clark Gallery and the Visual Arts Gallery as well as the management of the UTRGV Permanent Art Collection.

Ms. Macias continues her studio work together with her academic responsibilities. “My work evolves from my perception of the physical world and its relationship and interaction with the space around it. A personal expression that can take two or three dimensional form. In my work I look forward the joy of discovery and process while making the work.”



“Habla Tex” (2015)

DIGITAL PRINT
48” x 17”

E. CORINNE WHITTEMORE

E. Corinne Whittemore grew up in the Rio Grande Valley. She graduated from the University of Texas-Pan American with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, majoring in Graphic Design and received her MFA in Visual Communications from the University of Arizona. While in graduate school, she taught Art 265, a beginning level graphic design course and is currently teaching Typography and Design I at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. In her teaching, she strives to instill the responsibility of the designer within society as well as provide her students with the skills and knowledge needed to understand and produce good design.

Corinne has worked in the field of graphic design for about fifteen years as a Production Artist, Graphic Designer, Marketing Coordinator and Freelancer on both the East and West Coasts. She lived, most recently, in Virginia Beach, VA before moving back to the Valley.

Current research includes the study of border culture through street and storefront signage, religious iconography and flea markets of the Rio Grande Valley. Her design work is digital photomontage and mirrors her research using photographs she has taken over a period of ten years of the border area.



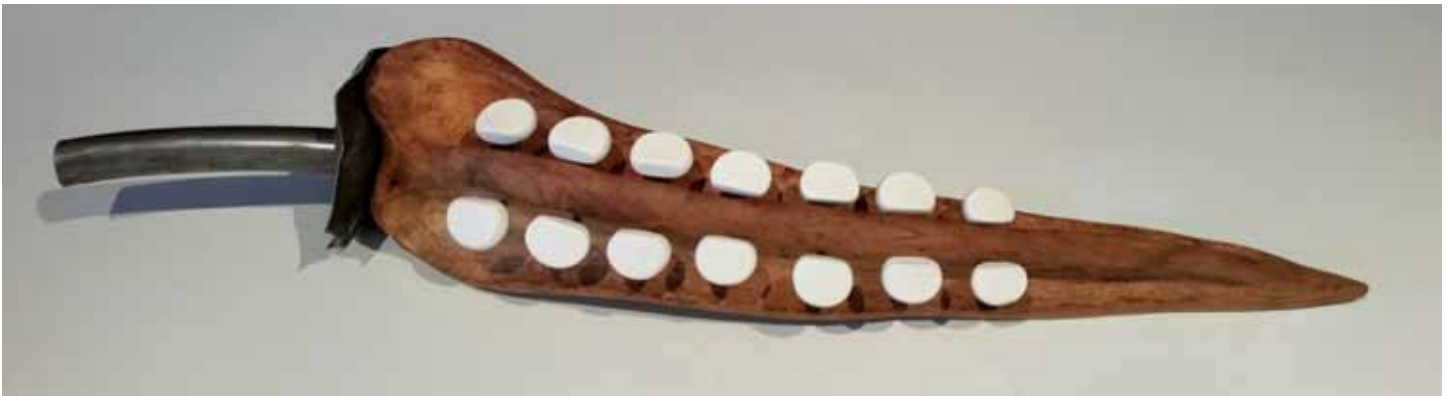
Tom Burrell "Brainwashed" (2015)

MIXED MEDIA
17" x 27" x 4"

LORENZO PACE

Dr. Lorenzo Pace is a professor of art, an artist, author, and performance artist. He has exhibited around the world and designed the sculpture, *Triumph of the Human Spirit*, the largest site monument to commemorate New York City's oldest African American burial ground. Pace earned a BFA and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago and went on to receive a doctorate in art education from Illinois State University. He maintains studios in Edinburg and New York City.

"What motivates me to create art is the chance to inspire artists for the next generation. I'm motivated also by the chance to help manifest a little more peace and love in the world, and, to be honest, I love to play. Art is a generous playground and I'm grateful for every opportunity that I get to play."



“Puro Chile” (2015)

MESQUITE, BLACK METAL, AND CLAY
7” H. x 42” W. x 9” L.



JULIAN RODRIGUEZ

Julian R. Rodriguez was raised in Mission, Texas and he is currently Lecturer of Art at UTRGV School of Art, Brownsville campus. Julian draws on his background as a potter and blacksmith to create works of mixed media while finding a balance between materials. Within this balance there is a representation of cultural icons of the South Texas Frontera.



“Black Drum Dream” (2015)

PROGRESSIVE MONOTYPE PRINT SERIGRAPH
22” x 30”

REYNALDO SANTIAGO

I believe that there are no rules in the process of creativity. Preconceptions of what art should be, (by definition, philosophy, or ideology), constrain the human condition and are, at base, in denial of artistic freedom. In essence, I deliberately create art that at times defies tradition, and the art society as a whole, by weaving in and out of seamless boundaries that, on many occasions, are void of purpose other than serving my disobedient artistic tendency.

Being misunderstood is a blessing and within a system of structure, balance is obtained by being an “ARTIST.”



“Tap Collar” (2015)

CODE GENERATED SOUND ARRAYED PATTERN, IN LASER CUT FELT

14.5” x 14.5”

DONNA MASON SWEIGART

Playfully applying technology while exploring dimension creates objects pure of form, absent of expectation, and delightful to the eye. 3 dimensional to 2D and back to 3D, computer generated shape from sound input translates to line and arrayed. Flat laser cut felt is realized fully to 3D when placed on the body.



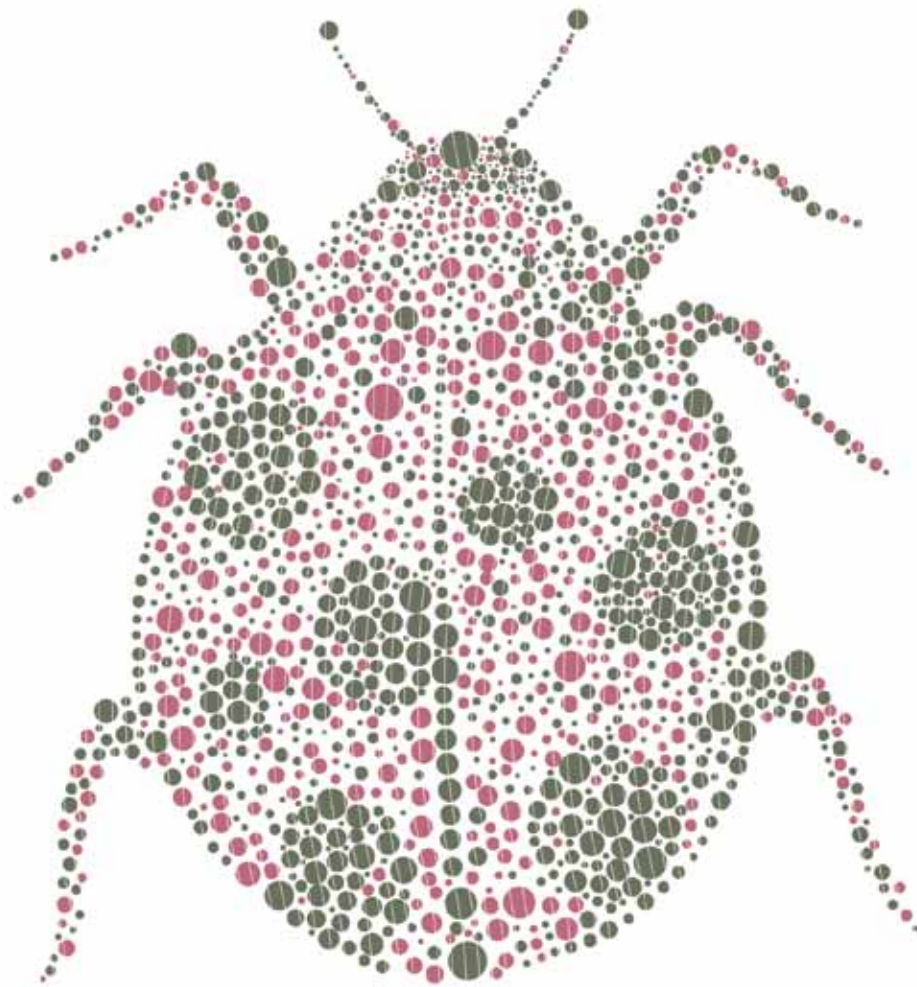
“Mestizo” (2006)

ACRYLIC ON PAPER BOARD

19" x 12"

PAUL VALADEZ

I was born in California in a Mexican-American Family. I find that certain individuals tend to label me and my work; I have been called a Hispanic, Chicano, Latino, Mexican-American, Californian, Texan, but rarely just an American Artist. Any label in itself, for an artist, is not bad; I identify myself as a Proud Mexican-American. The difficulty arises when viewers see a label and associate it with a certain “type” of art production. I grew up in Stockton, California and moved back to San Francisco, where I was born, to pursue an art career. I graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute with a BFA in Interdisciplinary Art, and in 2003 I earned a MFA in Studio Art from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where I was awarded a Weiss Fellowship for Urban Livability. My goal has been to make art as a Mexican-American artist that challenges the viewer’s preconceived notions of what Mexican-American art can be.



“Ladybug” (2015)

DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION

PING XU

Digital illustration is the use of digital media to produce original artwork through direct manipulation of the illustration software by artist. I used Adobe Illustrator to create this illustration. The original idea came from my photo and gesture of a beetle. I used a couple of spot colors and a basic geometric form to produce the illustration.



The catalog of 2015-2016 Faculty of UTRGV
was supported by the Marialice Shary Shivers Endowed Chair in Fine Arts.

This Endowed Chair in the Arts was awarded to Professor Susan Fitzsimmons from 2013-2016. It was a gift from Marialice Shary Shivers (1910 - 1996) who was the wife of Governor Robert Allan Shivers. She was one of those great benefactors of the arts. Marialice married Robert Allan Shivers Oct. 5, 1937 in Mission, Texas. She supported her husband's political career as a State Senator, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor of Texas. She is remembered as one of Texas' most gracious First Ladies. She was a member and chairman of the Board of Regents at Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas from 1965-1978 and a founder of the Seton Development Board in Austin. She was instrumental in supporting Seton's Regional Neonatal Center, which was named for her, and was named one of Austin's Outstanding Women in 1980. She was also involved with The University of Texas, the Shivers Cancer Center, The Allan Shivers Library and Museum in Woodville, Texas, The Allan Shivers Park at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, and the Sharyland Independent School District's Scholarship Program. The Marialice Shary Shivers Administration Building at UTPA was named for her in 1990. Marialice also served on the boards of Laguna Gloria Art Museum and the Hidalgo County Historical Museum in Edinburg.



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