



# Carolyn Castaño

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# Carolyn Castaño—cv

**Born:** Los Angeles, CA

## **Education:**

**2001 University of California, Los Angeles, MFA**

**1996 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture**

**1995 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA, BFA**

## **Selected Exhibitions:**

**2011**

**Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, C.O.L.A City of Los Angeles Individual Artist Fellowship,**  
Los Angeles, CA May 2011

**2010**

**PØST, 31 Kamikaze, New Work: Asesinados United by Carolyn Castaño, Los Angeles, CA July 2010**

**Walter Maciel Gallery, Short Film Series, Vanitas by Carolyn Castaño, Los Angeles, CA July**

**2010**

**El Museo Del Barrio, Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement, New York, NY**

**Torrance Art Museum, !2 Gauge Series, Eros/Thanatos curated by Tricia Lawless Murray,**  
Torrance, CA

**2009**

**Museo d Arte Zapopan, Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement, Guadalajara, Mexico**

**Phoenix Art Museum, Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement, Phoenix, AZ**

**Intersection 2009, The Beauty Doll Salon, Center for the Arts at Eagle Rock & Outpost for**

**Contemporary Arts, Los Angeles**

**Solo Exhibition, It's Complicated at Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA**

**Emergency Landing, Tropico de Nopal Gallery, Los Angeles, CA**

**Political Draw at Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA**

**2008**

**Museo Rufino Tamayo, Phantom Sightings- Art After the Chicano Movement, Mexico City, Mexico**  
Oct 2008

**MACLA, The Art of Style, San Jose, CA**

**Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Phantom Sightings-Art After the Chicano Movement**

**ThirtyNineHotel, This Fever I Can't Resist, Carolyn Castaño and Megan Wilson, Honolulu, Hawaii**

**LA Art Girls and Phantom Galleries at the P.E. Building, LAAGAFBILA08**

**2007**

**Kontainer Gallery, Solo Exhibition, Los Angeles, CA**

**2006**

**Angles gallery, Hysteria Deluxe with the LA Art Girls**

**Meridian Gallery, Swell Again, Amy Berk, Carolyn Castaño, Megan Wilson,**  
San Francisco, CA

**Tropico de Nopal, Cuadrilatero II, Los Angeles, CA**

**2005**

**Kontainer Gallery, Bombs & Restless Lovers, Solo Exhibition, Los Angeles, CA**

**QED, LA-Art Girls in Apocalypse Soon, curated by Kristen Calabrese Los Angeles, CA**

**Tropico de Nopal, Calavera Fashion Show, Los Angeles, CA**

**Analogue Press, Altered State, Curated by Jennifer Dunlop, Los Angeles, CA**

**Pasadena Museum of California Art, Liquid Los Angeles, Currents in Contemporary Watercolor,**  
Curated by Leslie Jones, Pasadena, CA

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2004

**Lombard-Freid Fine Art**, *Beastly*, Solo Exhibition, New York, NY.

**Kontainer Gallery**, *Dead Hotel*, Carolyn Castaño & Tom Ellis, Los Angeles, CA

**Kontainer Gallery**, *Material Faith*, Los Angeles, CA

**Lombard-Freid Fine Art**, *Against Nature*, New York, NY.

2003

**Bank**, *Group Show*, Los Angeles, CA,

**Intersection for the Arts**, *Sama Sama-You're Welcome!*

**38 Langham Street**, *Honey Traps*, London, U.K.

**Kontainer**, *The Agreement*, Los Angeles, CA

**U.C.L.A Armand Hammer Museum**, *International Paper*, Los Angeles, CA

2001

**Hunter College**, The Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery, "Marked" Bay Area Drawings, New York, NY, Curated by Heidi Zuckerman-Jacobson

**Sonoma Art Museum**, "Marked" Bay Area Drawings, Curated by Heidi Zuckerman-Jacobson, Sonoma, CA

1999

**San Jose Museum of Art**, *Piecing It Together; A Visual Diary*, San Jose, CA

**Works/San Jose**, *Nine Lives; Rethinking Identity*, San Jose, CA

1998

**Four Walls /Scene Escena**, *Sap*, at the Motel Lanai (Amy Berk & Carolyn Castaño)

**New Langton Arts**, *All of Me*, San Francisco, CA

**Traywick Gallery**, *The Shape of Her Thoughts*, Berkeley, CA

**Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens**, *Bay Area Now*, San Francisco, CA

1996

**The Luggage Store**, *Sweet like Sugar, Sticky like Bubble Gum* November

**The Lab**, *Individualism*, San Francisco, CA

**Acme Gallery**, *Snacks*, San Francisco, CA

**Meridian Gallery**, *Swell*, San Francisco, CA

1995

**Meridian Gallery**, *About Drawing*, San Francisco, CA

**Galeria de La Raza**, *Another Life Up Inside Her Head*,  
San Francisco, CA

**Galeria de La Raza**, *Lagrimas Y Sonrisas*, San Francisco, CA

1994

**The Luggage Store Gallery**, *Dos Painters from the Mission with Kenneth Huerta*, San Francisco, CA

**The San Francisco Art Institute**, *Diego Rivera Gallery*, San Francisco, CA

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## Projects:

**Photo LA/ Art Projects** LA, El Nopal Press, January 2011

**LA Print: Edition 1**, El Nopal Press, November 2010

**Aqua Art Fair**, Walter Maciel Gallery, Dec 2009

**Favorite This! Selected Videos from San Francisco and Los Angeles Meridian Gallery, San Francisco, Organized by Carolyn Castaño, July 2009**

**Home Installation** By Megan Wilson, LA Extranjera, Video Projection at 1256 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA

**Watts House Project** with Edgar Arceneaux, Selected Virtual Redevelopment Proposal October 2008

**Wagon Station Customization-** Collaboration with Andrea Zittel AZ West, High Desert Test Sites, Joshua Tree, CA May 2006- 2007

**Gadis-Gadis, Girls-Girls with the Clarion Alley Mural Project**, mural installation in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 2004

**Random Acts of Beauty**, Tokyo, Denpasar, Yogyakarta, Carolyn Castaño & Megan Wilson, July 2002

## Residencies:

ThirtyNineHotel, Honolulu Hawaii, May 2008

Sama Sama- You're Welcome! Clarion Alley Mural Project, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, June 2003

Skowhegan, 1996

## Bibliography:

**K.P.C.C. Radio Interview** with Adolfo Guzman Lopez, February 1, 2011

**KCET**, Movie Miento blog by Adolfo Guzman Lopez, Narco Dolls Interview January 2011

**New York Times**, Phantom Sightings, by Ken Johnson, April 10, 2010

**Artnews**, How Chicano Is It? By Carolina Miranda, Phantom Sightings: Art After Chicano Movement at El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY May 2010

**ArtNet**, The Chicano Avant Garde by Walter Robinson, Phantom Sightings Art After the Chicano Movement at El Museo del Barrio April 3, 2010

**LatinArt.com**, Interview by Tiffany Barber, July 2009

**Street Art San Francisco: Mission Muralismo** by Annice Jacoby 2009

**Artweek**, It's Complicated at Walter Maciel Gallery by Ashley Tibbits

**LA Times Review**, It's Complicated at Walter Maciel Gallery by Christopher Knight April 17, 2009

**American Quarterly**, Project Muse, Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement at LACMA by Nizan Shaked January 2009

**Artweek**, The Art of Style at MACLA Frank Cebulski January 2009

**X-TRA Contemporary Art Quarterly**, Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement at LACMA by Vanesa Place Winter 2009

**Frieze Magazine**, Phantom Sightings by Natalie Haddad, September 2008

**ARTFORUM**, Phantom Sightings: Art After the Chicano Movement at LACMA by Julia Bryan-Wilson Summer 2008

**Art Review**, Phantom Sightings By Holly Myers, July/August 2008

**Honolulu Advertiser**, This Fever I Can't Resist, Carolyn Castaño and Megan Wilson at the ThirtyNineHotel, Lacy Matsumoto, July 2008

**LA Times**, The Guide, Video/works by Carolyn Castaño, May 2008

**LA Weekly**, Phantom Sightings, Art After the Chicano Movement, Christopher Miles, May 2008

**LA Times**, Art and Rebellion, Phantom Sightings, Art After the Chicano Movement, Christopher Knight, April 2008

**LA Times**, Phantom Sightings, Art After the Chicano Movement, Agustin Gurza, April 2008

**New Angeles Magazine**, Phantom Sightings, Art After the Chicano Movement, April 2008

**Dwell Magazine**, Phantom Sightings, Art After the Chicano Movement, April 2008

**Artweek**, Carolyn Castaño at Kontainer Galley, by Katherine Sartorius, Nov 2007

**Artweek**, Swell Again at the Meridian Gallery, by Kevin Buck, September 2006

**LA Artland- Contemporary Art in Los Angeles**, Jan Tumlrir, Chris Kraus, Jane McFadden, Nov 2005

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**Los Angeles Times**, Adornment is Never Excessive, By Christopher Knight, January 25, 2005  
**Ten X Ten Magazine**, Carolyn Castaño , Editorial, Nov 2004  
**Art on Paper**, Step Into Liquid, July- August, 2004 By Leslie Jones  
**New York Times**, Beastly Art Review by Grace Glueck, June 2004  
**Jakarta Post**, Sama Sama-You're Welcome! By Ade Tanesia, August 2003  
**Stretcher.Org**, International Paper by Katerine Satorius, May 2003  
**Los Angeles Times**, *Drawing, not toeing the line*, International Paper at the Hammer Museum by Christopher Knight, February 7, 2003  
**Public Art Review**, Random Acts of Beauty, September 2002  
**Zero Magazine**, *Sin Titulo; Fragrant Afternoon* at Meridian Gallery by Anjee Helstrup August 2000  
**Art Week**, "The Shape of Her Thoughts " at Traywick Gallery, by Harry Roche, June 1998  
**Art Issues**, San Francisco Fax. " Three Great Walls" Maria Porges Jan/ Feb 1998  
**San Francisco Chronicle**, *Bay Area Now " Quick Draw Artists and Tender Hearts "*, by Kenneth Baker, June 13, 1997  
**San Francisco Examiner**, *Bay Area Now*, " The Young at Art " by David Bonetti, June 18, 1997  
**Art Issues**, "Individualism " at The Lab, San Francisco Fax by Amy L. Berk Jan/Feb 1997  
**Sculpture Magazine**, "Swell" at Meridian Gallery by Maria Porges June 1996  
**S.F. Bay Guardian**, Critics Choice, Harry Roche, "Swell " March 20, 1996  
**S.F. Bay Guardian**, Eight Days A Week, Harry Roche, "Snacks " March 20,1996

## Lectures & Presentations:

Artist Lecture- Cal State University Los Angeles, October 2009  
Artist Lecture-Painting Symposium, USC Roski School of Fine Art November 2008  
Artist Lecture ThirtyNineHotel, "This Fever I Can't Resist" with Megan Wilson, Honolulu, Hawaii June 2008  
Artist Talk- Meridian Gallery , Swell Again with Megan Wilson and Amy Berk July 2008  
Featured Artist- Hammer Museum, International Paper, November 2002  
Visiting Artist- Stanford University, Senior Seminar with Professor Enrique Chagoya 1998  
Visiting Artist-UC Berkeley, Contemporary Practices Seminar, Instructor Kevin Radley 1997

## Awards:

**C.O.L.A.**, City of Los Angeles Individual Artist Fellowship 2011  
**Precita Eyes Muralist Award** 2005  
**D'arcy Hayman Grant**, U.C.L.A 2001  
**Sobel Award**, San Francisco Art Institute 1993-95  
**Honor Studio**, San Francisco Art Institute 1994-95

## Collections:

**Cosmopolitan Hotel**, La Vegas, Nevada  
**Eileen Norton**, Santa Monica  
**J.P. Morgan Chase**  
**Deutsche Bank**  
**Progressive Collection**  
**Sam Schwartz Collection**  
**Michael Lynne**, New Line Cinema  
**Rene Di Rosa Collection**

# Carolyn Castaño



## It's Complicated.

> [Listen here](#) for Castaño's interview on KPCC

In mixed-media paintings that evoke the amorous adventures of Latin American guerillas, presidential candidates, drug lords, and beauty queens, **It's Complicated** considers our collective fascination with tabloid images of love and infamy in the already image-saturated milieus of politics and narco-trafficking. Conflicting fantasies of wealth, honor, dominance, criminality, true love, and revolution contend for the personas of figures such as Pablo Escobar, Ingrid Betancourt, and the ill-fated "Miss Sinaloa 2008" Laura Zuñiga, the ancient, human hunger for myth and our indefatigable capacity to adore our folk heroes meeting global fandom, glamour and digital media to create a uniquely Latin American mystique.



Top: *Campaign Manager, Hostage, Mother (Clara Rojas); Guerilla Commander and Lover (Rodrigo Londono Echeverry); Presidential Candidate, French Teacher, Other Woman (Ingrid Betancourt)*, all 2009, acrylic, glitter and mixed media on canvas, 60 x 48 inches. Above: *Drug Lord and Lover (Pablo Escobar); Anchorwoman, Lover, Confidante (Virginia Vallejo)*, all 2009, acrylic, glitter and mixed media on canvas, 60 x 48 inches.

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*Drug Lord, Smuggler, Lover (Angel Garcia); Beauty Queen, Drug Moll, Girlfriend (Laura Zuniga), 2009, acrylic, glitter and mixed media on canvas, 60*

Like the girlish collages of a scrap-booking fan, the portraits have been “glamorized” with glitter, flocking and rhinestones, these tawdry and often tragic icons sanctified by loving and devoted embellishment with commonly available home-craft materials. Graphically painted in a style that recalls comic book illustration or 80’s poster art, each of the subjects is surrounded by motifs, colors, and patterns that relate to specific parts of their biographies. The green and white stripes in the painting of Pablo Escobar and Virginia Vallejo recall Escobar’s favorite soccer team, the Atlético Nacional of Medellín, and the camouflage in the paintings of Ingrid Betancourt and Clara Rojas correspond to the uniforms worn by the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). The crown and the Sinaloan sombrero, the formal accoutrements of a forlorn beauty queen, Miss Sinaloa and her narco boyfriend, are joined by another set of instruments – the familiar placard and height-marking bars of the mugshot.

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In the end, though, these motifs and items are as likely to force us into a confrontation with these figures' essential unknowability, as they are to specifically illustrate some aspect of their story. We only know what we have been told about these people and what we have projected onto them. Pablo Escobar, the cocaine kingpin, was famous for catapulting a brutal drug trade to the height of geopolitics, and he loved a not-so-secret mistress, the crusading Colombian journalist Virginia Vallejo who would publish a tell all novel "Loving Pablo/Hating Escobar" from near exile. Laura Zuñiga's reign as Miss Sinaloa 2008 would end when she and her narco boyfriend would be arrested in Dec 2008 in a truck full of guns and ammunition. Ingrid Betancourt, the Colombian presidential candidate would be held as hostage and living martyr in the jungles of Colombia for seven years, while her campaign manager, Clara Rojas, less famous and less remembered over those years of captivity, would face her onetime boss's disapproval for having a baby by one of their captors, a FARC guerrilla. Sandra Avila Beltran, a Mexican drug cartel leader, is dubbed "La Reina del Pacífico" (the Queen of the Pacific) by the media. She faces charges of organized crime, money laundering and conspiracy to traffic drugs, but no tally of her murderous misdeeds is complete without breathless mention of her legendary love affair with Colombian drug boss Juan Diego Espinosa Ramírez, El Tigre (the tiger). It's Complicated borrows its title from the jargon of social media sites use to describe "relationship status" partially as a wink towards the digital networks that increasingly speed these narratives around the globe, but mostly as recognition of the enduring truths of love and desire: Who can say for sure what goes on between two people away from prying eyes and cameras and social media site updates? Even the principles themselves couldn't tell you half



*Anchorwoman, Lover, Confidante (Virginia Vallejo)*, 2009, acrylic, glitter and mixed media on canvas, 60 x 48 inches;  
*Guerilla Commander and Lover (Rodrigo Londono Echevery)*, 2009, acrylic, glitter and mixed media on canvas, 60 x 48 inches.