

Carmina Cortes  
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[www.carminacortes.com](http://www.carminacortes.com)

**Education**

- 1989-1990 Art Instructional School - Minneapolis, MN
- 1994-1996 American Communication Institute-Hollywood, CA
- 1995-1998 Santa Monica College - Santa Monica, CA
- 2005-2007 BFA-The School of the Art Institute of Chicago - Chicago, IL
- 2011-2012 graduate school at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

**Awards**

- 2000-2005 Honorable Mention in many events while at Richland Ave Elementary
- 2005 Recipient of The Hispanic Illinois State Law Enforcement Association-Foundation
- 2005 Recipient of The Merit Scholarship at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2006 Winner of the Latina Magazine "My Latina Style" photography Contest
- 2007 Student Leadership Award from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2008 Honorable Mention in the Des Plaines Art Show
- 2011 Honorable Mention in the Des Plaines Art Show
- 2012 Recipient of the "Mujer Destacada" 2012 award in Arte y Cultura La Raza newspaper
- 2012 recognition from the city of Aurora Hispanic Chamber with the group Pintoras Mexicanas
- 2012 Finalist in Mama Latina awards, [www.mamalatina.com](http://www.mamalatina.com)
- 2012 recognition from The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation for outstanding Excellence and lasting contribution in the Latino Arts community.
- 2014 Guest artist at the Chicago Children's Museum
- 2015 recipient MCA Inspiration by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
- 2015 Recipient of "Homenaje a la Madre" from Nuestro Queso
- 2015 Recipient of "Reflecting Excellence award" from the renowned newspaper Reflejos for working with the Latino community while at Des Plaines History Center
- 2015 recipient of "Reflecting Excellence award" from the renowned newspaper Reflejos for working with the Latino community in the area of culture and art as producer/co-host of the show *Al Ritmo del Art* on [www.radiovive.us](http://www.radiovive.us)
- 2016 Certificate of Recognition from the City of Pomona California in the area of the arts
- 2016 Certificate of Appreciation from Jornada Cancion por la Paz in area of the arts

**News Articles**

- 2008 October An article was written in Des Plaines Times regarding the art piece *Traveling Chones*
- 2009 March An article was written in the Des Plaines Journal regarding "Women in Art Exhibit sponsored by the Chicago Public Library"
- 2009 April An article was written in La Raza Newspaper regarding my artwork
- 2011 October an article regarding participation in "Call and Response: from Artemisia to Frida Women's Juried Art exhibit" in the Des Plaines Journal
- 2012 La Raza Newspaper in regards to Mujer Destacada award
- 2012 August featured article in Refejos regarding Pintoras Mexicanas
- 2012 March full feature page on La Raza newspaper regarding an award
- 2012 August small article on an event regarding Pintoras Mexicanas in Hoy newspaper
- 2012 October Chicago ReMezcla mentioned in a group exhibition
- 2012 October Pintoras Mexicana nominated for Refecjos excellence award
- 2012 October Hispanically Speaking news article regarding Pintoras Mexicanas
- 2012 October Gozamos.com Pintoras Mexicanas
- 2013 January Reflejos "In the spotlight"

- 2013 September Lawndale Newspaper article on artwork at the State Treasurers
- 2014 La Raza Newspaper regarding art exhibit "Caracol del tiempo"

#### Other

- Volunteer at Jewel school in Maryville Des Plaines, IL
- Conducts parent/toddler workshops on creating art
- Director and producer of talk show Free Radio for The School of the Art called *La Tocada* 2005-2007.
- Member of Screen Actors Guild since 1995
- Guest artist at Chicago Children's Museum January 2014
- Volunteer -Public Relations for Pintoras Mexicanas - Chicago, IL  
Facebook.com/pintoras.mexicanas  
The group consists of over 250 women artists in Mexico, USA, Italy, Canada.  
As Public Relations my job consisted of scheduling television and radio appearances, writing press releases, organizing events and more.
- Latina Art League Chicago  
Founder of art group  
Curate art shows, press releases, television and radio appearances.

## Artist Resume

### Solo Shows

February 2003- solo show-Mary Paxton Gallery –Norwalk, CA  
March 2003 –solo show-Cesar Chavez Celebration –Inglewood, CA  
June 2003 –solo show-Espresso mi Cultural -Hollywood, CA  
May 2004- solo show-Tia Chuchas Cultural- Sylmar, CA  
July 2004- solo show-UCLA Latina Convention- Los Angeles, CA  
August 2004-solo show-Galerias Las Americas-Los Angeles, CA  
August 2007-solo show-Des Plaines Public Library-Des Plaines, IL  
March 2009-solo show-The Chicago Public Library “Women History Month”  
August 2009-Solo show- Exhibition at the Des Plaines Library-Des Plaines, IL  
August 2010- Solo Exhibition for Hispanic Heritage Month West, Belmont Library Chicago  
January 2011-painted mural in Library of St. Gall School, Chicago, IL  
February 2013-solo group- Des Plaines library, Des Plaines, IL  
September 2013- Chicago Public Library featured artist, Chicago, IL

### Curator

March 2009--The Chicago Public Library “Women History Month”  
August 2009-Exhibition at the Des Plaines Library-Des Plaines, IL  
August 2010-Exhibition for Hispanic Heritage Month West, Belmont Library Chicago  
June 2012-Pintoras Mexicanas Bridgeport Art center, Chicago,IL  
July 2012- Pintoras Mexicanas Alcyone Festival at the Greenhouse Theater, Chicago,IL  
October 2012- Dia de los Muertos exhibit Casa Ciudad Mexico, Chicago IL  
February 2013- Des Plaines library, Des Plaines, IL  
March 2013- “Woman: Divine and Perfection”,Chicago State University, Chicago IL  
July 2013- Frida on our Mind, at Under the Bridge Gallery, Chicago, IL  
September 2013-“Viva La Cultura”, Elgin Artspace, Elgin, IL  
November 2013- “ Dia de los muertos” Representante del Estado de Durango en Illinois, Chicago,IL  
November 2013-Sister Cities Naperville Chicago Sinfonietta Concert II: Día de los Muertos, Naperville,IL

### Group shows

September 2004-Arco Iris Gallery- Norwalk, CA  
November 2004- Mary Paxon Gallery, Norwalk CA  
April 2007-BFA Exhibition-Gallery 2-Chicago, IL  
May 2007 –Mattie Rhodes Gallery-group show –Kansas City, MO  
June 2008-Friends of the Wilmette Public Library 27th Annual Juried Art Show, Wilmette, IL  
July 2008-Mexican Fine Arts Museum-Chicago, IL  
October 2008- Chicago Open at the Merchandise Mart-Chicago, IL

October 2008-Andersonville Art –sponsored by La Cocina de Frida -Chicago,IL  
August 2009-8th Annual Pilsen Together Chamber of Commerce Art Festival, Chicago, IL  
April 2010-Chicago Open-Chicago, IL  
October 2011- Pilsen Open Studios, Chicago IL  
July 2011- La Encantada Raises/roots , Chicago, IL  
October 2011- Call and Response: From Artemisa to Frida, Koehnline Museum, Des Plaines, IL  
November 2011-Des Plaines History Center, Des Plaines, IL  
Feburary 2012-Mexican Women Artists exhibition in the Museum of Sebastian, Casa Siglo XIX Ave.  
Juárez 601 Col. Centro. Chihuahua, Chih. CP. 31000.  
March 2012-Congress theater Lilia Downs “Pecados y Milagros” Chicago,IL  
June 2012-Bridgeport Art center, Chicago,IL  
July 2012- Alcyone Festival at the Greenhouse Theater, Chicago,IL  
August 2012-Rostros de migracion, Mexico  
September 2012-East Chicago Library Hispanic Heritage, Chicago,IN  
October 2012- Global Feast at the Broadcasting museum, Chicago IL  
October 2012- Latin night part of Hispanic Heritage, East Chicago, Indiana  
October 2012- Pilsen Open Studios, Chicago, IL  
October 2012- Dia de los Muertos exhibit Casa Ciudad Mexico, Chicago IL  
October 2012- Dia de los Muertos exhibit Studio 12 Gallery, Denver, CO  
October 2012-The Personal is Political- Koehnline Museum, Des Plaines, IL  
November 2012-Dia de los Muertos event Aurora Hispanic Chamber, Aurora,IL  
November 2012-Dia de los Muertos exhibit ER Gallery, Chicago,IL  
November 2012-Mujeres de Pilsen-Aztlan, Gallery Calmecac Casa Aztlan,Chicago, Il  
January 2013-Viajeras, Casa Michuocan, Chicago, IL  
March 2013-Voces de Mujeres-Carlos and Dominguez Gallery, IL Chicago  
April 2013- Woman: Divine and Perfection-Chicago State University,Chicago  
May 2013- Skokie Art Walk – Skokie, IL  
June 2013-Phoenix Rising Chicago Presents Gynaeceum, Chicago, Il  
June 2013-Dreamers, Casa Durango, Chicago, IL  
July 2013- Frida on our Mind, at Under the Bridge Gallery, Chicago, IL  
August 2013-Januray 2014 Illinois State Treasurers Office at the Thompson Center, Chicago IL  
September 2013- Next Wave Art Salon, Elgin, IL  
September 2013-“Viva la Cultura” Elgin Art lofts, Elgin, IL  
October 2013- “A Passion for skulls” Vital Real Estate, Chicago, IL  
October 2013-“ Passion for skulls” Blue Betties Boutique, Pilsen, IL  
November 2013- “ Dia de los muertos” Representante del Estado de Durango en Illinois,  
Chicago, IL  
November 2013-Sister Cities Naperville Chicago Sinfonietta Concert II: Día de los Muertos, Naperville,IL

November 2013-2nd Annual Mariachi & Tequila Festival 2013, Chicago, IL

January 2014- Heartbreak Hotel a tribute to Elvis, Blue Betties boutique, Chicago, IL

January 2014- Arte Latino Now at Queens University of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC

January 2014- Hablamos Espanol Elgin Chamber of comers, Elgin IL

March 2014- "Caracol del Tiempo" Calles y Suenos Gallery, Chicago,IL

April 2014-Elgin Latino Film Festival, Elgin IL

May 2014- "A Message of Hope..Lupus Awareness",Ian Sherwin Gallery, Chicago,IL

September 2015 "Hispanic Heritage Month" The Des Plaines History Museum, Des Plaines, IL

October 2015-"Feminisim Across The Generations" Koehline Muesem Des Plaines, IL

October 2015-"Dia de los Muertos" The Des Plaines History Museum, Des Plaines, IL

March 2016-" 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Women International Exhibit" Latino Art Museum, Pomona,CA



**CARMINA CORTES**

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**Artist's Bio**

Carmina Cortes was born and raised in southern California. At a young age, she suffered a fall and herniated three discs in the lower lumbar area, which led to a series of operations and treatments. In 2002, she suffered an irreversible injury that left her with three herniated discs in the cervical area. As a result of this injury, she suffered depression and sadness due to her physical state. This same sadness brought forward the artist who is now recognized in the Los Angeles area as well as the Chicago area. Her depression led to an abundance of paintings expressing hope.

Her passion for her Mexican heritage drives her to create bright colorful pieces that remind her of her childhood summers in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Most of her new pieces are mixed media surrealism with a strong resemblance to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mexican art, which she has grown to admire. She strives to create a positive connection for the Latino community especially within her young Latino students today. Her newest venture is the launch of her art talk show "Al Ritmos del Arte" on Radio Vive ([www.radiovive.us](http://www.radiovive.us)). She is the founder of Latina Art League, a group of Latina artists dedicated to empowering and education through the arts. Currently she is the Program Assistant at the Des Plaines History Center.

She holds a degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Fine Arts. She holds a degree from Art Instructional Schools as well as Santa Monica College. In 2012 she was the recipient of the award Mujer Destacada in the area of the arts from the respectable newspaper La Raza.

Carmina can be reached at 224-565-1805



### “Mis Dos Amores” My two loves

El Corazon:. The Heart is not only that which has physicality, but also that which has spirituality. When one speaks of love, joy, peace, hope and family, one is speaking of that spirituality. It is that special something that holds us together. The heart is used throughout the world as a symbol of love, passion and hope.

The paper mache hearts represent the love I hold for my only daughter Galilea while the other represents the passion I hold for art. Both hearts fuel me in different ways; my daughter is my fuel to live and my art feeds my soul. As a mother I am torn between the two but the two are somehow connected. There's times when I have an art exhibit and I have to leave my daughter behind. Guilt then follows me around the gallery and I am unable to enjoy my evening but then I take one look at my artwork and calm takes over. It's a mixture of emotions.

In my Mexican culture creating art is seen as a hobby and the family always comes first. The pressure of my culture to be that perfect housewife and mother are instilled in me but my art is my medicine for depression, anxiety and much more. Society in many ways looks upon it as a selfish act. The machismo Mexicano does not allow the female artists to grow to its full potential due to negative criticism. It's a world of tug and pull and a whirl wind of emotions at times.

