

Bio

Gabriela Monterroso is a dedicated arts professional whose career is centered on showcasing emerging Latin American artists and fostering cultural exchange and community building. As the owner of Monterroso Gallery, she has created valuable opportunities for Latin American artists to exhibit their work in Houston—a city known for its diversity but often lacking in adequate representation for this community. Understanding the unique challenges faced by Latin American artists, especially those who are newcomers, Gabriela has committed herself to bridging these gaps through nonprofit events, auctions, and exhibitions that celebrate their talent and contributions.

Among her significant achievements is the residency program she founded, which brings together artists from diverse backgrounds to nurture a sense of community and collaboration. This program supports artists in developing their craft while connecting them with the broader Houston art community, culminating in solo exhibitions that enhance their visibility and impact.

Gabriela's dedication to cultural preservation and exchange extends beyond the gallery. She organizes cultural tours to Guatemala, offering U.S.-based artists the chance to immerse themselves in Guatemala's rich traditions and artistic practices. These tours facilitate meaningful exchanges between Latinx artists in the U.S. and their counterparts in Latin America, ensuring that cultural heritage is preserved, celebrated, and passed on to future generations.

As an artist herself, Gabriela deeply understands the Latino experience of being an artist in the U.S., drawing inspiration from the folklore of Guatemala in her own work, which focuses on women as tokens. This personal experience enriches her ability to support and advocate for Latin American artists in her gallery and beyond.

As a founding member of the Latin American Women Artists of Houston (LAWAH), she has played various roles—including treasurer and tech trainer—aimed at amplifying Latina artists' voices and expanding their opportunities. Additionally, her involvement with the "100 Latinos" advocacy group has contributed to the creation of a Latino cultural complex in Houston, which has received substantial financial support.

Through her multifaceted efforts, Gabriela Monterroso strives to make a lasting impact on Houston's artistic community, ensuring that Latin American culture is represented and celebrated in all its richness and diversity.