

Paulina Velázquez Solís (1981) was born in Mexico where she grew up under the influence of colorful folk art and traditions. At the age of 17, she moved with her family to her other motherland: Costa Rica, where she found herself surrounded by water and life, and eventually art school.

Her influences range from illustrated books, folk art and games in general, to comics, graphic design and visual artists, as well as her love for animals, nature and televised animations. She works primarily in visual art, using different mediums such as drawing and printmaking, as well as video, animation, sculpture and installation. Her work is currently taking new avenues in live performance with sound and animation collaborating with other artists.

She began showing work in 2004 in collective art shows, contests and film festivals both in Costa Rica, Central America and internationally.

Since then, she has worked with several different collectives such as Foro GAMA group, Thinktank Media, Grupo CENTRO, the Landings exhibition series, and interdisciplinary collaborations in festivals such as CESTA (Tabor, Czech Republic) and Torino Contemporanea (Torino, Italy).

She has shown her work locally in such places as the 7th Costarrican Film Festival, Galeria Nacional and the Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporaneo MADC in San José, receiving recognitions such as the award in the V Bienarte, the local Biennial to represent Costa Rica in the V Central American Biennial in El Salvador in 2006, and the First Prize for the Premio Union Latina para la Creacion Joven in 2007.

Internationally she has been included in exhibitions at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, La Casa de las Americas en La Habana, el Museum of the Americas in Washington DC, UCLA Biennial in Los Angeles, Root Division, Mission Cultural Center, Diego Rivera and Swell galleries, in San Francisco.

Her audiovisual work has been shown in festivals such as La Muestra de Cine Costarricense, MadCat Film Festival, Urban Nomad in Taiwan and ScopeBasel in Switzerland with live performances at the Luggage Store Gallery, The Lab in San Francisco and the Berkeley Art Museum BAM/PFA

She has been artist in residence in the Cultural Exchange Station in Tabor Czech Republic and for the Torino Contemporanea Festival in Italy, and RAPACES in Managua, Nicaragua at Espira/LaEspora

She holds a BFA and Licenciatura in Visual Arts from the Universidad Nacional (UNA) in printmaking, and she recently obtained a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Practice with a concentration in New Genres at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) as a Fulbright Scholar.

Her work is currently taking new avenues in live performance with sound and animation collaborating with other artists. She looks forward to unanticipated creative possibilities.