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# Mexican American Cultural Center Debuts “Mujer Moderna: The Life and Artwork of Mago Gandara”

**EL PASO, Texas**—The Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) proudly announces the debut of a new solo exhibition, *“Mujer Moderna: The Life and Artwork of Mago Gandara,”* opening Wednesday, October 16, in the main gallery.

The exhibition celebrates the pioneering work of the first Chicana Modernist artist in the Borderlands and features more than 100 pieces, including never-before-seen works that explore themes of motherhood, spirituality, and connection to the land through modernist techniques.

Curated by MACC Exhibits Coordinator Ramon Cardenas, the exhibition showcases artwork, photographs, and personal writings, making it the most comprehensive presentation of Gandara’s work since her feature at the Museum of Art in Ciudad Juárez.

An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 16. *“Mujer Moderna”* will remain on view through April 27, 2026.

The Mexican American Cultural Center is free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about the *“Mujer Moderna”* exhibition and a full list of programs and activities at the Mexican American Cultural Center, visit [EPMACC.org](http://EPMACC.org).

## About the Artist

Born in El Paso on February 8, 1929, Mago Gandara graduated with a BFA in Arts and Education from the University of Texas at El Paso, where she studied under the renowned sculptor Urbici Soler. She then studied art at the Chicago Institute of Art and the University of Southern California and received her master’s from Antioch College.

Living and working between El Paso and Juárez since the 1970’s, Mago created an array of artworks on both sides of the border. A pioneer of her craft, she was the first female muralist in our region working within a large-scale format—utilizing earth, glass, tile, stone, and found material to create her public art masterpieces. Additionally, Mago’s medium of work included watercolor painting, sculpture, and sketches. The artist chose abstraction to render her imagery depicting the border’s landscape and people to express universal human emotions.

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