Sheila Garrett Rodriguez

My name is Sheila Garrett Rodriguez, I identify with being a Chicana and grew up primarily in a Los Angeles household, and currently I reside in Hacienda Heights with my family. A majority of my work is over-laid with a sense of the Chicana viewpoint. The day-to-day experience of working-class Chicanas is replete with the practices within the domestic space or home. The sphere of the domestic includes home embellishments, home altar maintenance, healing traditions, and personal feminine pose or style. For many Chicanas, the development of home shrines is the focus for the refinement of domestic skills such as embroidery, crochet, flowermaking, and handpainting.

Ideas of home and dislocation have always been compelling to me as the child of parents and grandparents who moved across the United States. This lead me to believe that the word “home” is contingent, in flux, without permanence..

Exploration of individual differences in attachment to the home, primarily in the dimensions that characterize the mental representations of cognitions regarding attachment related experiences and feelings inform my process. It is argued that a deep relationship with places is necessary to give significance to human existence. Representing these ideas through images of houses, domestic objects, and woven structures representing time/memories created within the domestic space is an integral space my work navigates through.

This work explores the ideas of the changes within the home building through remodeling and flipping in contrast to the ties that bind one to their cultural practices over generations. Having lived in over 30 homes in my lifetime and I often wonder if any of the changes I made are still a part of the house I once called my own.