

Statement:

My work is based on episodic memories of real and imagined experiences in rural and urban landscapes. These landscapes are tense-ridden and precarious: shifty, unstable, unpredictable, unsettled and ambiguous. They reflect the physical, emotional, and socio-political charged spaces we currently live in, where political unrest, social unease, and economic instability affect our individual and collective concepts of space, time, history, and memory.

In my artistic practice, I explore elements of drawing in both painting and sculpture. The process of collecting, documenting, and interpreting material culture is significant in creating work that expresses the interconnectedness of people, places, and things. By playing with scale, imagery, line, and diverse materials, I create drawings and large-scale installations that map out and emphasize the subtle and quirky topologies of space, specifically, the landscape. This work emphasizes our dynamic and fragile relationship with the natural and man-made architectural forms that surround us.

My travels continue to guide my practice, where a shift in location, in emotion, in activity, gives rise to new ways of looking and interpreting.

BIO:

**Gisela Insuaste** is an artist, educator, and administrator. She has worked in various cultural institutions such as the Chicago Cultural Center, the Chicago Historical Society, and the Smithsonian Institute. She has taught students at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Hyde Park Art Center, LillStreet Art Center, Unidad Educativa San Patricio, Kansas City Arts Institute and Dartmouth College. Her paintings, drawings, and installations are inspired by her travels in North and South America, where she has witnessed political unrest, social unease, and economic instability—all factors affecting her concepts of space, time, memory, and history, that extend into her teaching practice of art and community. Exhibitions include the Chicago Cultural Center, Gallery 400-UIC, Thomas McCormick, Bucket Rider Gallery, Polvo, 3Arts Gallery, NIU Gallery, Betty Rymer and several group shows in Chicago, IL, Kansas City, MO, Washington, DC, and Ecuador. Gisela has received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her B.A in Anthropology & Studio Art from Dartmouth College. She is a recipient of the 2004 Richard Driehaus Emerging Artist Award and a 2005 Illinois Arts Council Finalist Award in Visual Art. In 2005 and 2006, she received MacDowell Colony Artist Fellowships to complete new work. She was also recently nominated for a 2006 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Sculptors and Painters.

Gisela currently works as a Community Schools Resource Coordinator at the Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) at Columbia College Chicago.