

Contents



Acknowledgments xvii

INTRODUCTION. Women of the Texas-Mexican Earth,
by Inés Hernández-Ávila 1

*1. Enterrando ombligos/Burying the Umbilical Cord:
Tejanas in a Texas Land*

Inés Hernández-Ávila

Introduction 19

Gloria Anzaldúa

Border arte: Nepantla, el lugar de la frontera 23

Alicia Gaspar de Alba

To Your Shadow Beast: In Memoriam 33

Margo Tamez

The Equation of a Circle 36

Susan M. Guerra

Holiday 39

Juanita A. Luna Lawhn

Man without a Pen 44

Oralia Garza de Cortés

Hija del mesquite 46

Inés Hernández-Ávila
That's Tejana 50

María Limón
Santiago 55

Raquel Valle-Sentíes
Growing Up in Laredo 58

Evangelina Vigil
harbor 60

Norma Elia Cantú
South Texas in July, 2014 62

Deborah Paredes
Alzheimer's Aubade 63

Enedina Cásarez Vásquez
¿Y qué nos pasó, Amá? 65

Gloria Amescua
Fall into the Fig 67

Susana Rentería Almanza
Reflections of la Madre Tierra 70

María Silva
Chicana 76

Celeste Guzmán Mendoza
Repair 80

Teresa Palomo Acosta
My mother's thimble 81

Laura M. López
Growing Up a Texas-Mexican Woman 83

Anel Flores
Sinvergüenza on the Banks of the Water 88

Emmy Pérez
El Paso~El Valle 95

Raquel Valle-Sentíes
River of Lost Dreams 98

Patrisia Gonzales
The Pyramid I Call Home 100

Rosemary Catacalos
Red Dirt, Atascosa County, Texas 104

Paulita Huerta Garza
Amorosamente les saludo/Lovingly, I Greet You 106

Pat Mora
A River of Women 108

II. *Dolores profundos y la gracia de la vida/
Deep Hurts and the Grace of Life*

Inés Hernández-Ávila
Introduction 111

Emma Pérez
Between Manifest Destiny and Women's Rights:
Decolonizing Chicana History 115

Yolanda Chávez Leyva
"If a woman stands at the door you can't go in":
Jovita's Story, April 1914 126

Beva Sanchez-Padilla
The Ballad of Emma Tenayuca 132

Norma Elia Cantú
Para Manuela Solis Sager 135

Mary Guerrero Milligan
La mentira, or How I Got Through Texas History 137

Teresa Palomo Acosta
Casas grandes 141

Aurora Orozco
No me quites mi español/Don't Take Away My Spanish 143
Idioma/Language

Laura Parra Codina
My Mother Used to Read to Me 147

- María Herrera-Sobek*
Summertime Blues 149
- Josephine Cásarez*
Brown Trenzas Are for Mensas 151
- D. Letticia Galindo*
Memories of West Texas 154
- Domino Renee Pérez*
Anticipating a New Life 157
- María Herrera-Sobek*
The Immigrant's Lament 164
- Gloria Amescua*
Not the Last Pretender 166
- Laura Parra Codina*
Aquí en San Anto/Here in San Anto 167
- Carmen Tafolla*
Something Severed 169
- Beatriz de la Garza*
Amber Waves of Grain 170
- Rosie Castro*
San Antonio sin Marías 185
- Tammy Melody Gómez*
It Is Possible 188
- Mary Margaret Navar*
El conquistador 190
- Angela Valenzuela*
The Power of Difference 192
- Edith Villalobos Silvas*
I Wanted Mexican, but I Got H.E.B. Instead 198
- Mary Sue Galindo*
La Elliott (1935–1970) 200
- Rosie Castro*
Brown Mother Full of Stars 203

III. *Arte y semblanza: Tejana Artists*

Norma Elia Cantú

Introduction 213

Santa Barraza 215

Nora Chapa Mendoza 223

Celeste De Luna 229

Carmen Lomas Garza 234

Verónica Ortegón 241

María Teresa García Pedroche 248

Kathy Vargas 255

Terry Ybañez 262

Conclusion 264

IV. *All Our Relations: Our Connections to Land, Family, Friends*

Norma Elia Cantú

Introduction 267

Sonia Saldívar-Hull

(Re)Forming A Chicana Feminist: Transfrontera Memorias 271

Olivia Castellano

Tía 281

ire'ne lara silva

en trozos/in pieces 284

Inés Hernández-Ávila

Skyway Dreams 287

Sylvia Herrera

Ábreme la puerta 290

- Emmy Pérez*
We, the Obsessed 292
- María Herrera-Sobek*
Amorcito corazón 293
- Liliana Valenzuela*
A Chilanga Tejana Writer: Notes on the Geography of Shame 294
- Aída Hurtado*
She/Woman/Man 302
- B. J. Manriquez Segura*
An Understanding 303
- Edith Villalobos Silvas*
No More Trenzas 304
- Rosie Castro*
Role Model 306
- Enedina Cásarez Vásquez*
Bad Hair Day 307
- Evangelina Vigil*
nocturne: cuando el destino 310
- Dorotea Reyna*
Moustache 313
- Deborah Paredes*
At the VA Telemetry Ward 315
- D. Letticia Galindo*
Longing for Tejas Blues 317
- Juanita Luna Lawhn*
My Mother's Cuartito 319
- Celeste Guzmán Mendoza*
Dinner with Dad 322
- Aída Hurtado*
Mothering I 324

Rose Treviño
Sueños argentinos/Argentine Dreams 326

Tammy Melody Gómez
Woman and Pain 331

María Eugenia Guerra
The Garden 333

Teresa Palomo Acosta
Forgiving Stephen F. Austin and the Old Three Hundred 336

Paulita Huerta Garza
Viva la libertad: Mensaje a las mujeres 337
Long Live Liberty: A Message to Women
(translation by Norma E. Cantú) 338

Pat Mora
Let Us Hold Hands 339

Norma Elia Cantú
Tierra incógnita 341

Rosa-Linda Fregoso
Ghosts of a Mexican Past (excerpt) 343

Alicia Gaspar de Alba
Asking for Pears: A Limpia Not Just a Love Poem 349

*v. (Auto)compromisos y comunidad:
Gifts of Powerful, Conscious Loving*

Inés Hernández-Ávila
Introduction 357

Margo Tamez
La Dormilona Dreamt of Home from the Shore of Erie 361

Liliana Valenzuela
Hoy detengo el curso de los ríos 363
Today I Stop the River in Its Tracks (translation by Fred Forno) 366

Mary Sue Galindo
Ya lo verás 369

Rosie Castro

Chicanas Never Feared 371

María Silva

Con todo respeto para la raza más apreciada,
los chicanos/With All My Respect for My
Dearest People, the Chicanos 373

Tammy Melody Gómez

In Finite F Light 377

Aída Hurtado

Body I 378

D. Letticia Galindo

Tejana Tongues/Lenguas tejanas 379

Norma Elia Cantú

Canto a la tierra 381

Dorotea Reyna

Reina de copas 383

Mary Sue Galindo

In Memory of My Departed Grandmother:
Juanita Pérez Mejía 08/25/03–03/11/93 388

Pat Mora

Ofrenda for Lobo: November 2, 1993 390

Bárbara Renaud González

Feliz Navidad, Daddy 392

Evangelina Vigil

one dream of so many 395

Laura Parra Codina

Sóplame la vida 397

Mary Margaret Navar

Plegaria milenaria/Millennial Prayer 398

ire'ne lara silva

one-sided conversations with my mother 400

<i>Sylvia Ledesma</i>	
Luchando por libertad	404
Struggling for Freedom (translation by Inés Hernández-Ávila)	405
<i>Rosemary Catacalos</i>	
Picture Postcard from a Painter	406
<i>B. J. Manriquez Segura</i>	
An Omen	408
<i>Raquel Valle-Sentíes</i>	
Cuando tú me besas/When You Kiss Me	409
<i>Susan Guerra</i>	
My Woman and Her Bird	411
<i>Paulita Huerta Garza</i>	
Trozos de amor a la vida/Pieces of Love to Life	412
<i>Teresa Palomo Acosta</i>	
Because faith has called me out	416
<i>Evangelina Vigil</i>	
el silencio	418
<i>Carmen Tafolla</i>	
Healing a Culture, AD 2000	420
EPILOGUE. ¡Adelante y con ganas!, by Norma Elia Cantú	425
Notes	433
Works Cited	437
Further Reading	441
Contributors	459