



JAMES RENWICK ALLIANCE FOR CRAFT



2021 MASTER OF THE MEDIUM Consuelo Jimenez Underwood

"Over thirty years ago, when "craft vs. art" was the most divisive issue in the arts, I discovered and established my "authentic artistic voice," refocused my studies from the paintbrush and pigments to needle and thread. Empowered by the voices of my indigenous maternal ancestors, I began to cross the intellectual borders that separated the hand and the mind (craft), from the spirit (fine art). My work is a reflection of personal border experiences: the interconnectedness of societies, insisting on beauty in struggle, and celebrating the notion of seeing this world through my tri-cultural lens."

Consuelo Jimenez Underwood was born in Sacramento, California, the daughter of migrant agricultural workers, a Chicano mother and a father of Huichol Indian descent. Crossing borders and negotiating between three perspectives has always been fundamental to her identity and the basis of her creative process. Consuelo has exhibited and lectured nationally and internationally for more than twenty-five years. Her work is part of the permanent collections of museums such as the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC, the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, the National Hispanic Center for the Arts in New Mexico, the Mexican Museum in San Francisco and the Oakland Museum of California. She was awarded the 2017 Master Artist Grant from the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture and was elected to the Council of Fellows of the American Craft Council in 2018. Consuelo received her BA and MA from San Diego State University. She received her MFA from San Jose State University, where she began teaching fiber art in 1987. For more than twenty years, Underwood worked to develop a vibrant fiber program, and inspire young artists to embrace thread.

Learn more about JRA Craft Weekend: www.jra.org/jracraft-weekend



The **James Renwick Alliance** is an independent national non-profit organization that celebrates the achievements of America's craft artists and fosters scholarship, education, connoisseurship and public appreciation of craft art. If you are not already a member, we invite you to become one. More information about us can be found on our website.