

**Suzanne K. Seriff, Ph.D.**  
**3705 Laurelledge Lane**  
**Austin, Texas 78731**  
**seriff@aol.com**

**EDUCATION:**

**University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, 1981-1989**

Ph.D. and M.A. in Anthropology/Folklore

Dissertation: *"Este Soy Yo" : The Politics of Representation of a Texas-Mexican Folk Artist"*

**Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania**

B.A. with Distinction in Anthropology

Phi Beta Kappa

**EMPLOYMENT: MUSEUMS, HISTORIC SITES, PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Guest Curator**, "Earth, Wind, Water and Fire: Natural Disasters and the Folk Arts of Survival," a temporary exhibit in the Gallery of Conscience, July 4, 2011-May 24, 2012.

**Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Guest Curator**, "Empowering Women: Artisan Cooperatives That Transform Communities," a temporary exhibit in the Gallery of Conscience, July 4, 2010-May 24, 2011.

**Austin Children's Museum, Austin, Texas**

**Principal Humanities Consultant**, "Cuentos de Familia," an IMLS-funded program to implement a new model of bi-lingual, cross-cultural school-family museum programs in area schools, August 2010-July 2012

**The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum , Austin, Texas**

**Project Co-Director and Guest Curator** "Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island," an NEH-funded traveling exhibit and multimedia program, 2005-2012 (opening February 21, 2009.)

**International Folk Art Market, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Strategic Planning Consultant and Chair, Artisan Selection Committee**, Artisan Selection Process 2007-present

**The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin, Texas**

**Guest Curator**, "It STILL Ain't Braggin' If It's True," temporary exhibit celebrating the people, events and stories of Texas through objects worth braggin' about, May 26-September 10, 2006

**Texas Folklife Resources, Austin, Texas**

**Project Coordinator**: Community Residency Program: Folk Musicians in Rural Tx, 2003-2004

**Seton Healthcare Ministry**

**Project Director and Executive Producer**: "Century of Care": Oral History Video on the occasion of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul's Centennial in Austin, Texas, 2002

**Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center**

**Project Ethnographer**, "Gateways: International Collaborations in the Arts. Ethnographic Documentarian for a collaborative dance project: "De Fronteras, Viajes, y Mariposas." 2001

**The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum , Austin, Texas**

**Guest Curator and Catalogue Editor**, "It Ain't Braggin' If It's True," Temporary Exhibit, March-October 2001.

**Objects Curator**, Planning, Research and Design Group, Ltd. July 1998-2001

**Smithsonian Institution, Office of Folklife Programs, Washington DC**

**Exhibit Consultant**, Young Toy Makers Project, a proposed exhibit for the 2,000 American Folklife Festival, May-September 1998

**Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas at Austin**

**Guest Curator**, "Mexican Toymakers in Transition". October-December, 1997

**Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Project Co-Director , Guest Curator, Catalogue Co-Editor** , "Recycled, Re-Seen: Folk Art from the Global Scrap Heap", an NEH-funded traveling exhibit and multi-media project; 1st Place winner, 1997 AAM Curator's Committee Exhibition Award. 1991-1996

**Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas, Austin**

**Project Director**, "Mexican Folk Toys and Their Makers." NEH-funded Museum exhibit, 1995.

**Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas**

**Guest Curator,** "The Figural Tradition in Mexican Folk Art," Summer, 1991.

**Borderfest Folklife Festival. Laredo State University. Laredo, Texas**

**Project Director,** "Border Folklife and Cultural History Program," Summers 1982, 1983

**Women and Their Work, Austin, Texas**

**Project Fieldworker,** "Handwork: Women's Folk textiles of Central Texas." 1982-1983

**Smithsonian Institution, Office of Folklife Programs. Washington, D.C.**

Presenter, "Texas Mexican Popular Arts Exhibit," American Folklife Festival, Summer 1987

Research Assistant, "Texas Crossroads: the Folk Arts of Agriculture," an exhibit at the Texas State Fair. 1984

**Laredo State University**

**Project Director,** "Border Arts" at the annual Borderfest traditional arts festival, Summer 1981, 1982

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

**Sr. Lecturer, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Anthropology; Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, 1996-present**

**Adjunct Professor, Texas State University, Dept of Public History**

**Classes Taught:** "American Material Culture," "American Jewish Material Culture," American Arts of Conscience," "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology," "Representations of Jews in the American Public Sphere," "Cultural Heritage on Display," "American Public Spheres"

"Exhibiting Culture: The Theory and Practice of Museum Curation," American Fairs, Festivals and Traveling Tent Shows: Cultures on Display," "Museums and Anthropology: Curating Dilemmas in Ethnographic Museums," "Anthropology of Toys and other Ethnic and Popular Arts." "Magic, Witchcraft, and Sorcery." "Introduction to Texas-Mexican Culture, "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology"

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

Empowering Women: Artisan Cooperatives that Transform Communities. In process, Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, forthcoming 2011.

"Immigrant Voices from America's Forgotten Gateway, In Museums and Social Issues, Fall 2008

"It Ain't Braggin' If It's True," Museum Catalogue Editor. Texas State History Museum. Austin, 2001.

Recycled, Re-Seen: Folk Art From the Global Scrap Heap, co-ed, with Charlene Cerny. Abrams Press, New York. Spring 1996.

Snakes, Sirens, Virgins and Devils: The Politics of Representation of a Texas-Mexican Folk Artist. Book manuscript.

"Homages in Clay: The Figural Ceramics of José Varela." In Hecho En Tejas: Texas Mexican Folk Arts and Crafts Texas Folklore Society Publications XLIX, ed. Joe Graham. Denton: U. of North Texas Press. 1992

"Giving an Altar to St. Joseph": A Feminist Perspective on a Patronal Feast in Bryan, Texas."

With Kay Turner. In Feminist Theory and the Study of Folklore, eds. Susan Hollis, Linda Pershing, and M. Jane Young, University of Illinois Press. 1992.

"Giving an Altar": The Art of Reproduction in a St. Joseph's Day Feast." With Kay Turner. Journal of American Folklore 100(398): 446-460.1987

"Bits and Pieces: The Mexican American Folk Aesthetic." With José E. Limón. In Art Among Us/Arte Entre Nosotros, San Antonio: San Antonio Museum of Art. 1984

#### SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS:

Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum: Summerlee Scholar in Residence

Texas Assoc. of Museums, Gene Fowler Silver Award for exhibit catalogue "It Ain't Braggin' If It's True."

American Association of Museums Curator's Committee Exhibition Award:

First Place for the exhibition, Recycled, Re-Seen: Folk Art From the Global Scrap Heap

\*National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship for Independent Scholars,

University Fellowship, University of Texas

University of Texas Professional Development Award

National Resource Fellowship for Language Study (Japanese)

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship for Research Abroad

#### SELECTED WORKSHOPS, PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS and SYMPOSIA

**Women's Folk Art Cooperatives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Colloquium co-produced by the Museum of International Folk Art and the International Folk Art Market.**

Colloquium Keynote Speaker and Facilitator, July 6,7, 2010

**The Galveston Movement: A Centennial Retrospective. Symposium organized by the Texas State History Museum and Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies**

Project Director, Keynote Speaker, September 10-13, 2009

**Ford Foundation, "Difficult Dialogues" National Conference**

Keynote Speaker: "Safe Place for Scary Talk: New Museum Models for Civic Engagement and Dialogue,"

October 22, 2009, University of Texas at Austin

**International Toy Research Association,**

Board Secretary, Newsletter Editor, 2008-2011

**Summer Teacher's Institute, Galveston Island, Humanities Texas**

Project Co-Director and Humanities Scholar, "Galveston on the Gulf: Immigration to Texas and America, 1945-2014," NEH-funded statewide teacher training workshop, Galveston Island.

**University of Texas Center for American History**

Keynote Speaker: "Texas Folk Art," Winedale Symposium, Spring 2002

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Webcast**

Web cast participant: Educational live Web cast for 4th and 7th grade students covering "The Story of Texas". Austin, Texas, November 2nd, 2001

**Ford Foundation Initiative Colloquium, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA**

Contributing Collaborator, Core Values in International Collaboration. June, 2001.

**Summer Teacher Institute, Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico.**

Principal workshop Instructor. Recycled, Re-Seen: Folk Art From the Global Scrap Heap.

**National Endowment for the Humanities.**

Invited Evaluator, Division of Museum Programs, Washington DC, 2006, 1996

#### **Society Membership and Board Positions**

American Folklore Society (Nominating Committee Member 2009-2011)

International Toy Research Association (Board Secretary and Newsletter co-editor 2008-2012)

National Association of Public History

American Association of Museums

Texas Association of Museums

American Anthropological Association

Social Science History Association