

# Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

*The Island University*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Art Exhibition Features Works by Trio of Master of Arts Candidates at Texas  
A&M University-Corpus Christi**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Three candidates seeking Master of Arts degrees from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will hold a combined exhibition of their work from Friday, Nov. 7, through Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Islander Art Gallery, 4024 Weber Road in the Hamlin Center.

David Fuentes, Johnny Bilanno, and Carole Mauch will each present a body of work of varying media for their graduate exhibitions. On Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m., a public reception will be held for the graduate students at the Islander Art Gallery.

**Johnny Bilano (Photography):** Born and raised in Corpus Christi, Bilano's emphasis is on traditional darkroom photography. He gained his first experience in photography as a camera salesman and he has worked as a gunsmith, a supervisor for a gear manufacturing company, and served as gunner's mate in the Navy during Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf War.

In 2005, Bilano earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and graduated cum laude. He has exhibited his photography extensively and has won numerous awards including the Dean's List Award and the President's Council Scholarship Exhibit. His work explores the aesthetic and technical aspects of photography, both in the darkroom and in conjunction with digital technology.

**David Fuentes (Printmaking):** Fuentes was born with cerebral palsy and has

embraced his problems as gifts to help him tell his story through art. The Corpus Christi artist has made his disability the foundation for his art, and he has produced an extensive series of self-portraits in which he portrays his body as atrophied and earthbound. His story is about triumph in the face of adversity.

Fuentes has an associate's degree in art education and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting. He is an award-winning artist and has been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles.

**Carole Mauch (Ceramics):** Mauch was born and raised in the arid Nevada desert, but currently lives in Rockport, Texas. Mauch attended Long Beach City College, Oklahoma State University, and Del Mar College. In 2004, she received her baccalaureate degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is a clay artist who “receives her inspiration from nature, music and coastal living.”

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