

PPC speech for ArtTable,

April 26, 2013

Thank you, Teresita, for your VERY warm introduction. You have made me blush with so many compliments. It is not every day that one is introduced by a member of President Obama's Commission of Fine Arts and such an outstanding artist. Gracias!

It's a joy, a very special privilege for me to accept this award from ArtTable. I am humbled and especially excited to share this afternoon with such a fantastic group of professionals in the arts. I see so many who've served our cause with such distinction over the years, recipients of this award whose ranks I am pleased to join today.

I am honored because this is an institution that has committed itself to demonstrating the breath and possibilities women have when we form meaningful, supportive bonds and camaraderie; when our creative minds come together. Oh yes, we make a difference!

In reflecting about the road less traveled by my overwhelming feeling is one of gratitude. Much of my life has been devoted to the cause of Latin American culture. That exploration has been an incredible joy. I feel very lucky to have had the chance to do work that I love and find meaningful. So I accept this award understanding I did not get here by

myself. Many individuals and institutions that have made my journey possible... My husband, Gustavo Cisneros, who has always been a superb partner in the mission to give Latin America a global presence, and who has cultivated alliances throughout the world and been a constant source of inspiration to me. My children, whose love and understanding have made my mission a worthy one.

Our dynamic team at the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, the CPPC (as we call it) for believing and loving what we do. My particular thanks to our director, Gabriel Pérez Barreiro for his determination and leadership.

I am also fortunate to have many dear friends who are deeply committed to the arts and who have been unfailingly encouraging and helpful. I am very grateful to my friend Jeanne Collins with us today, who introduced me to ArtTable some years ago. I am also indebted to today's benefit chairs and dear friends, the one and only Aggie Gund, the dynamo Wendy Luers, and the very wise Emily Rafferty; and to our keynote speaker Kathy Halbreich, a brilliant mind and a beautiful smile; as well as our many friends who have contributed not only to the success of today's event, but to our collective cultural legacy. I particularly want to thank Jannifer Rissler and Ada Ciniglio, two amazing women behind ArtTable's success.

I am so proud to be the first Latin American woman to receive the **ArtTable Distinguished Service to the Visual Arts Award** and I am also, of course, delighted with ArtTable's openness to Latin American art and its inclusion of Latin American scholars, artists and curators in its events and programs.

Thank you.