

# SCRIBBLE'S CREATIONS

Written, Produced & Directed  
by  
Kathy Huang

45 min. – Digital Video  
Stereo

Contact:

Kathy Huang  
1571 Waldran Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90041  
[info@kathyhuangfilms.com](mailto:info@kathyhuangfilms.com)  
[www.kathyhuangfilms.com](http://www.kathyhuangfilms.com)

# **SCRIBBLE'S CREATIONS**

a documentary by Kathy Huang

## **THE STORY**

18-year-old Fernando Paez lives in a Texas *colonia*, an unincorporated settlement along the U.S.-Mexico border. Also known as "Scribble's Creations," Fernando spends his days drawing graffiti with the other members of his tagging crew. Life is changing for this tagger, though. A recent high school dropout and a father-to-be, Fernando must struggle to balance old habits with new responsibilities. With financial burdens and family conflicts looming before him, Fernando reveals what it truly takes to become an adult in the colonias.

Using tapes partially shot by Fernando and his friends, former teacher Kathy Huang takes an intimate look at the often forgotten community of the colonias. It is a world where children must grow up quickly with few resources and opportunities, and where rash decisions can have life-altering consequences.

## **CREDITS**

Director, Producer, Editor	Kathy Huang
Camera, Sound	Kathy Huang, Fernando Paez, Janie Garza
Cast	Fernando Paez, Janie Garza

## **PREVIOUS SCREENINGS**

2006 Arizona International Film Festival  
2005 CineFestival of San Antonio  
2005 International Latino Film Festival- San Francisco Bay Area  
2005 Tulipanes Latino Art and Film Festival  
2005 Dallas Video Festival  
2005 Rural Route Film Festival  
2005 Real to Reel Film Festival, *Best Amateur Documentary*  
2005 Cine Las Americas International Film Festival  
2004 Boston Latino International Film Festival  
2004 CineSol Latino Film Festival

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

As a former high school teacher in La Joya, Texas, I frequently visited my students and their families in the colonias. Homes were often clean and decorated. But rooms were small and shared by several individuals. Floors were made of cold concrete. When I saw one of my favorite students using an overturned bucket as a desk, I realized just how little I understood about my students. In these surroundings, homework was not a casual affair but a daily challenge. For those who were unable to take showers or buy new clothing, school was not a refuge, but a place of shame. My students and their families spoke about unemployment, health problems, drug-related violence, and the incarcerations of family members. I began to see why so many of my students shrugged when I asked them about college. A diploma seemed distant and useless in these immediate surroundings.

I decided to take a sabbatical from teaching in order to document the challenges that so many of my students faced. I was drawn initially to taggers or graffiti artists, many of whom came from the colonias and seemed to have the hardest time conforming to the expectations of their parents and teachers, not to mention law enforcement officials. One tagger in particular caught my attention. Fernando Paez, better known as "Scribble's Creations," heralded from a tagging crew named "Meant to Control" (M2C). Highly regarded among taggers for his lightning fast work and keen sense of color, Fernando was also a recent high school dropout and a father-to-be. His life embodied so many of the problems of the local area: teenage pregnancy, poverty, and the failure of the educational system. I quickly raised the idea of a video project with Fernando and his family. With some funding from Humanities Texas and the Rio Grande Valley Arts Council, we began work on a video project in October 2003.

The project has not always been easy. The personal problems of Fernando and his girlfriend Janie have on more than one occasion compelled me to put down the camera and take up the role of counselor and friend. I have also been greatly disheartened by the sheer number of obstacles that Fernando must overcome. The world is not kind to a young man who lacks a high school diploma, social connections, or any capital upon which he can build. With a new family to support, in-laws to appease, and a job that pays minimum wage, one wonders how Fernando can ever get ahead in life.

Yet, hope rests in me still. Fernando, like so many other colonia residents, continues to plan for a better future. He says to me smiling, "I never quit. Can't stop, won't stop. Scribble One. It's my little tagger attitude. If a cop is running after you, don't trip. If you trip, get up and run." Grim living conditions and an apparent lack of job opportunities will not deter him. His love for his girlfriend Janie and new daughter April is too great; he will make the necessary sacrifices and move forward. I hope he succeeds. He's suggested that I return 5 years later to document their lives again. It's an invitation I gladly welcome.

**-Kathy Huang, July '04**

## **DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Kathy Huang's career as a filmmaker began in the dusty fields of the Rio Grande Valley. There, inspired by her experiences teaching at-risk youth in a rural high school, she produced her first documentary *Scribble's Creations* (2004). Since then, her short documentaries have continued to touch upon social and cultural issues. They have screened at venues such as SILVERDOCS, the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and the Tribeca Film Festival. Kathy holds a B.A. in History from Harvard University and a M.A. in Documentary Film and Video from Stanford University. She is currently based in Los Angeles.

## **FILMOGRAPHY**

2006 *Miss Chinatown, U.S.A.* (video, documentary)

2005 *Night Visions* (16mm film, documentary)

2005 *Jaywalking* (video, documentary)

2004 *Scribble's Creations* (video, documentary)