

MORA, PATRICIA, (PAT) (1942–)

“Much as I want us . . . Chicanas of all ages, to carry the positive aspects of our culture with them or sustenance, I also want us to question and ponder what values and customs we wish to incorporate into our lives, to continue our individual and our collective evolution.”

A native of El Paso, Texas, Mora was greatly influenced by the dynamic bilingual and transnational culture that flourished along the U.S.-Mexico border. Best known for her bilingual books for children, Mora wrote, among others, the award-winning *Maria Paints the Hills* and *A Library for Juana: The World of Sor Juana Inéz*. Emphasizing the multicultural world of Mexicans and other Latinos, Mora’s carefully selected illustrations convey a universe of dazzling color and diversity reminiscent of pan- Latino ethnicity. She also wrote an autobiographical compilation *Nepantla: Essays from the Land in the Middle* (1993), *House of Houses* (1997), and a collection of poems in *Borders* (1986), which was the winner of the Southwest Book Award.