

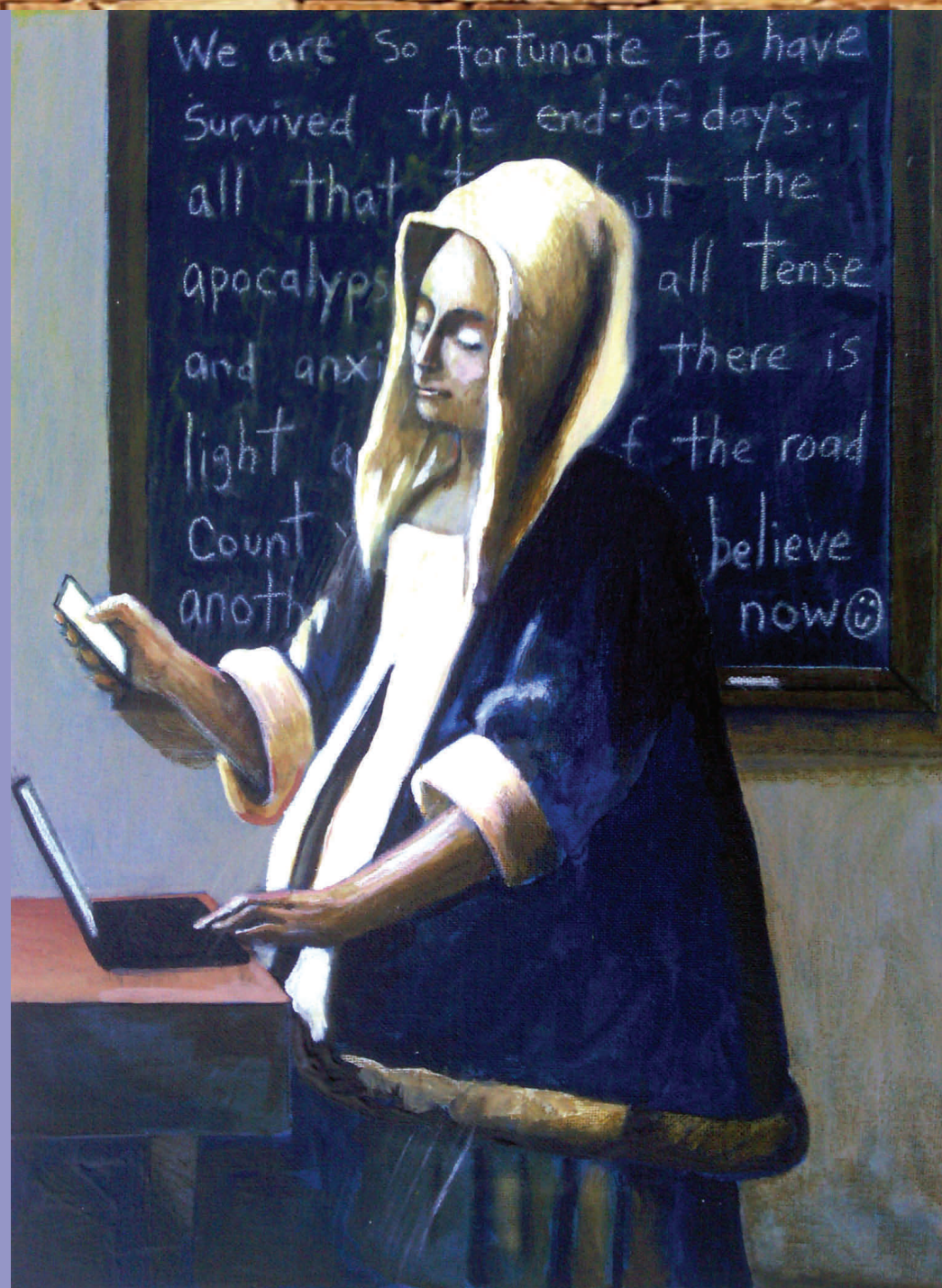


# Reconstructing *Las Historias* of Mexican-American Literature, 1900-1940

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The David J. Weber Fellow  
for the Study of Southwestern  
America

Wednesday, April 27, 2016  
12 noon to 1 pm  
McCord Auditorium, Dallas Hall  
3225 University on the campus of SMU

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Many Chicana/o writers and artists have challenged the idea of Mexican American identity as a single, stable historical narrative. They have questioned the coherence of boundaries in texts that emphasize migratory movement, globalization, and regional emergence. Yet these three forces were already coursing through US-Mexican border regions in the early twentieth century, and were doing so in complex ways that, although they focused on upheaval and change, also emphasized the recuperative powers of storytelling and redemptive political values. These century-old tensions often parallel our present global dilemmas and give us new ways to consider the twenty-first century as a potentially post-national age. As we navigate our own dualisms between the local and the global, it is important to consider how early South Texas Mexican-American writers dealt with narrative meaning and political expression in the midst of intensely destabilizing historical forces.

*Image: Gabriel Navar, "špp 4 shaman episodes" 16 x12 inches, acrylic, pencils, ink & oil on canvas board. Wiesbaden, Germany.*