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The Cheech Announces Chicano Camera Culture: A Photographic History, 1966–2026

First major survey of Chicana/o/x lens-based practices across six decades

February 7 – September 6, 2026

RIVERSIDE, CA –The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture of the Riverside Art Museum announces ***Chicano Camera Culture: A Photographic History, 1966–2026***, the first major survey to explore the evolution of Chicana/o/x lens-based practices across six decades. Opening February 7, 2026, the exhibition will span both RAM locations for the first time: most works at The Cheech through September 6, 2026, while a special archival section in the Members Gallery at RAM's historic Julia Morgan Building through July 5, 2026. Following its Riverside debut, it will embark on a national tour. This project was supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Featuring 150 works by nearly 50 U.S. Chicana/o/x artists, *Chicano Camera Culture* traces photography's role from its activist roots in the 1960s to expansive contemporary expressions today. Traditional and experimental works—including silver gelatin and digital prints, manipulated imagery, staged scenes, installations, and conceptual approaches—invite audiences to consider how the camera has shaped self-representation, cultural identity, and political expression.

Curated by Elizabeth Ferrer, author of *Latinx Photography in the United States: A Visual History*, the exhibition unfolds across eight thematic sections: *Protests & Affirmations*; *Picturing Self and Others*; *Domesticana*; *Claiming Space*; *Border Stories*; *History, Remixed*; *Other Selves, Other Realities*; and *The Archive*.

Trailblazers such as Louis Carlos Bernal, Luis C. Garza, George Rodriguez, and María Varela are presented alongside innovators of the 1980s and 1990s—including Kathy Vargas, Ricardo Valverde, Christina Fernandez, and Ken Gonzales-Day—and contemporary voices Star Montana, Arlene Mejorado, Thalía Gochez, and Eduardo L. Rivera.

A fully illustrated catalog will be published by University of Washington Press with essays by Ferrer and scholars Charlene Villaseñor Black, Jennifer A. González, Deanna Ledezma, Nicole F. Scalissi, and Mary Thomas.

Elizabeth Ferrer, Curator: “This exhibition brings together generations of Chicana and Chicano photographers whose work has been central to documenting, shaping, and reimagining our communities. *Chicano Camera Culture* not only honors the pioneers who wielded the camera as a tool for social change but also celebrates today's artists who are expanding the medium in bold and unexpected ways.”

Cheech Marin: “Photography has always been an essential part of Chicano culture—it's how we've seen ourselves, how we've been seen, and how we've reshaped that vision. *Chicano Camera Culture* brings all of this history together in one place.”

Patricia Reynolds, President, Riverside Art Museum Board of Trustees: “We are proud to originate this exhibition at The Cheech and share it with audiences nationwide. It embodies our mission to uplift diverse voices and underscores the national significance of The Cheech in elevating Chicano art and culture.”

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ABOUT THE CURATOR: Elizabeth Ferrer is a leading specialist in Latinx photography. She is the author of *Latinx Photography in the United States: A Visual History* (2021); *Lola Alvarez Bravo* (Aperture, NY); and of numerous essays and exhibition catalogs. Ferrer has curated exhibitions for such institutions as Aperture; the Smithsonian; El Museo del Barrio; the Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, and the Americas Society. Her exhibition of the pioneering Chicano photographer, Louis Carlos Bernal, *Retrospectiva*, was presented at the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. The *New York Times* named her book accompanying the exhibition as a 2024 best art book of the year.

FEATURED ARTISTS INCLUDE: Laura Aguilar • Max Aguilera-Hellweg • Asco • Chuy Benítez • Louis Carlos Bernal • Robert C. Buitrón • Freddy Calderon • William Camargo • Oscar R. Castillo • Camilo Cruz • Christina Fernandez • Harry Gamboa Jr. • Miguel A. Gandert • Luis C. Garza • Thalía Gochez • Ken Gonzales-Day • Fabián Guerrero • Alma Lopez • Annie Lopez • Martina Lopez • Arlene Mejorado • Jesús Manuel Mena Garza • Yulissa Mendoza • Star Montana • Delilah Montoya • Lizette Olivas • Rubén Ortiz-Torres • Chuck Ramírez • Daniel Ramos • Eduardo L Rivera • Reynaldo Rivera • George Rodriguez • Rudy Rodriguez • Guadalupe Rosales / Veteranas & Rucas • Diana Solís • Ada Trillo • John M. Valadez • Patssi Valdez • Ricardo Valverde • Maria Varela • Kathy Vargas • Yolanda Vasquez Petrocelli • Christopher A. Velasco • Amy Zapata

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION CATALOG: Distributed by University of Washington Press, the exhibition catalog for *Chicano Camera Culture* will include essays by six scholars: **Elizabeth Ferrer**, author of *Latinx Photography in the United States: A Visual History* and curator; **Charlene Villaseñor Black**, Loevner Fellow and Tutor in History of Art at Worcester College, University of Oxford, and Professor of Art of the Americas at UCLA; **Jennifer A. González**, Professor of History of Art and Visual Culture at UC Santa Cruz; **Deanna Ledezma**, Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative at the University of Illinois Chicago; **Nicole F. Scalissi**, Assistant Professor of Art History and Global Cultures at CSU San Bernardino and a historian of Latinx and Afro-Latinx contemporary art; and **Mary Thomas**, art historian and writer.

ABOUT RIVERSIDE ART MUSEUM & THE CHEECH MARIN CENTER FOR CHICANO ART & CULTURE: Riverside Art Museum and The Cheech are dedicated to ensuring accessibility for all through a range of free, reduced-cost, and general admission ticket options. Details at riversideartmuseum.org/visit/plan-your-visit

The Riverside Art Museum (RAM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving the Inland region since 1959. Through exhibitions, art education, and artist residencies, RAM uplifts diverse voices and fosters community connection. Housed in a 1929 Julia Morgan-designed building at 3425 Mission Inn Avenue—a registered historic landmark—RAM welcomes thousands annually for exhibitions, classes, and events. Learn more at riversideartmuseum.org and follow [@RiversideArtMuseum](https://www.instagram.com/@RiversideArtMuseum).

Opened in 2022, The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture is the nation's first center dedicated to Chicana/o/x art. Located in Riverside's former public library at 3581 Mission Inn Ave., it houses the Cheech Marin Collection and presents exhibitions, programs, and scholarship exploring the legacy and evolution of Chicano art. Visit thecheechcenter.org and follow [@TheCheechCenter](https://www.instagram.com/@TheCheechCenter).

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