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## ***“We the People: Chicano Art in the U.S.A.” at The Cheech Focuses on Identity, Migration, Community, and Cultural Memory***



THE CHEECH MARIN CENTER  
FOR CHICANO ART & CULTURE  
OF THE RIVERSIDE ART MUSEUM

**RIVERSIDE, Calif. (May 8, 2026)** – The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture of the Riverside Art Museum (“The Cheech”) marks its fourth anniversary with [We the People: Chicano Art in the U.S.A.](#), on view May 30, 2026 through May 23, 2027. This year’s annual presentation focuses on themes of identity, migration, community, and cultural memory, drawing from Cheech Marin’s renowned collection, the museum’s permanent collections, recent gifts, newly acquired works, and artist loans.

Organized by artist and curator Benito Huerta, the exhibition includes 126 works by 61 artists, including Vincent Valdez, Chaz Bojórquez, José Lozano, and Sonia Romero. Featuring several works on view for the first time, along with others recognized as visitor favorites from previous exhibitions, *We the People* offers a timely lens on contemporary life.

Recent acquisitions from the estate of José Esquivel, co-founder of Con Safos, one of the earliest Chicano art groups in the country, and loans from artists Arely Morales and Alejandro Macias broaden the exhibition’s scope.

“*We the People: Chicano Art in the U.S.A.* is a declarative statement that we, Chicanos, are part of the people of these United States of America. We are integral to the fabric of this country and American art,” said Huerta.

Through painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media, the exhibition explores how artists confront the realities of daily life, from family traditions and neighborhood rituals to broader social and political tensions shaping the nation today. Designed to encourage dialogue, *We the People* presents unexpected juxtapositions that invite movement through the galleries in new ways. Along the way, visitors will encounter works that are both intimate and expansive, addressing issues such as migration, labor, climate change, cultural pride, and the complexities of representation.

Highlights include Lalo Alcaraz’ *Summer of ICE (Abandoned Paleta Cart)*, inspired by the real-life detention of a beloved street vendor forced to leave his livelihood behind. *A Miracle for the Masses* by Benjamin Muñoz features a paleta cart emblazoned with the words “Assembled in America” and the iconic “Huelga” symbol of the farmworker and civil rights movements, and now emblematic of resistance. Also featured is the recently acquired *Mojado No. 1* by Israel Alejandro García García, an installation about the artist’s experience with migration, border politics, and the complexities of documentation.

“This exhibition reflects the depth and diversity of Chicano art and the stories that shape our communities. It’s important that these works are seen as part of the broader American experience,” said Cheech Marin.

As a leading institution for Chicano art, The Cheech continues to work with guest curators locally and across the country, bringing fresh perspectives and a broader view to its exhibitions.

– MORE –

**We the People: Chicano Art in the U.S.A.**  
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**FEATURED ARTISTS (61):** Marcel Alcalá • Lalo Alcaraz • Abel Alejandro • Carlos Almaraz • Jari (Werc) Álvarez • Michael Álvarez • Chaz Bojórquez • Margarita Cabrera • Barbara Carrasco • Jamie Chávez • Einar & Jamex de la Torre • Carlos Donjuán • Richard S. Duardo • Gaspar Enríquez • Jenelle Esparza • José Esquivel • Emmanuel Gálvez • Margaret García • Israel Alejandro García García • Carmen Lomas Garza • Luis C. Garza • CiCi Segura González • Yolanda González • Gronk • Jacinto Guevara • Jorge R. Gutierrez • Roberto Gutiérrez • Wayne Alaniz Healy • Adán Hernández • Judithe Hernández • Jeannette L. Herrera • Luis Jiménez • Leo Limón • José Lozano • Gilbert (Magu) Luján • Alejandro Macias • César Martínez • Narsiso Martínez • Gerardo Monterrubio • Delilah M. Montoya • Arely Morales • Benjamin Muñoz • Robert Palacios • Viviana Paredes • Joe Peña • Wenceslao Quiroz • Carlos Ramírez • Alejandro Romero • Frank Romero • Sonia Romero • Alex Rubio • Ricardo Ruiz • Shizu Saldamando • Marta Sánchez • Eloy Torrez • John Valadez • Patssi Valdez • Vincent Valdez • George Yepes • Jaime (Germs) Zacarías

**ABOUT THE CURATOR:** Benito Huerta is an artist and curator based in Arlington, Texas. He holds a B.F.A. from the University of Houston and an M.A. from New Mexico State University. A Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas at Arlington, he previously served as Director/Curator of The Gallery at UTA and co-founded *Art Lies*, a Texas art journal. Huerta's work has been widely exhibited, including at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art and the National Museum of Mexican Art. He has completed numerous public art projects across Texas. As a curator, he has organized exhibitions on artists, including Luis Jiménez and Mel Chin, and recently curated *We the People: Chicano Art in the U.S.A.* for The Cheech.

**RIVERSIDE ART MUSEUM AND THE CHEECH MARIN CENTER FOR CHICANO ART & CULTURE**  
Riverside Art Museum (RAM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts institution that has served the Inland Empire of Southern California since 1959. RAM operates two locations in downtown Riverside: the historic Julia Morgan-designed Riverside Art Museum, located at 3425 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501 (opened 1967), and The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture ("The Cheech"), located at 3581 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501 (opened 2022). Together, the two sites present exhibitions, educational programs, events, and community initiatives that engage, inspire, and connect diverse audiences through the arts.

RAM – inclusive of The Cheech – is committed to accessibility through a range of free, reduced-cost, and general admission ticket options, including participation in the Museums for All program, which offers \$1 admission for up to four people.

To learn more, visit [www.riversideartmuseum.org](http://www.riversideartmuseum.org). Follow @RiversideArtMuseum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#). Visit [www.thecheechcenter.org](http://www.thecheechcenter.org). Follow @TheCheechCenter on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).

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