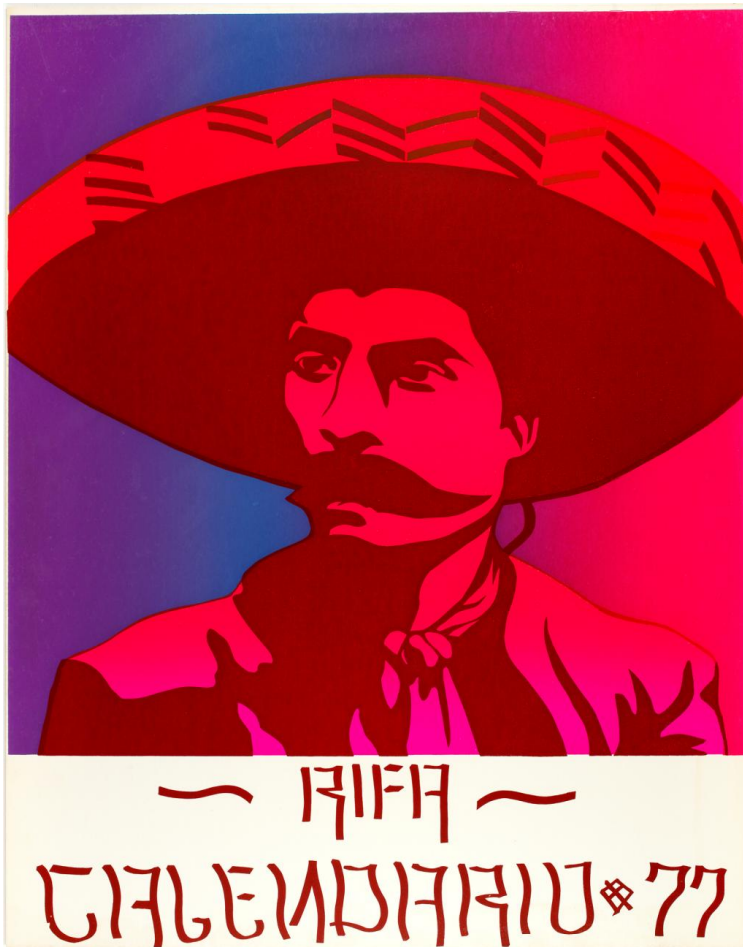


¡Printing the Revolution! The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965 to Now

NOVEMBER 20, 2020 — AUGUST 8, 2021

Smithsonian American Art Museum (8th and G Streets, NW)



Leonard Castellanos, *RIFA*, from *Méhicano 1977 Calendario*, 1976, screenprint on paperboard, Smithsonian American Art Museum

Tomás Ybarra-Frausto. Since then, other major donations and an ambitious acquisition program has built one of the largest museum collections of Chicano graphics on the East Coast.

This exhibition is organized by [E. Carmen Ramos](#), curator of Latinx art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, with Claudia Zapata, curatorial assistant. The museum will publish a major catalogue with essays by Ramos and Zapata, as well as contributions by Terezita Romo and Tatiana Reinoza, leading scholars of Chicano and Latinx graphics.

IMAGE GALLERY

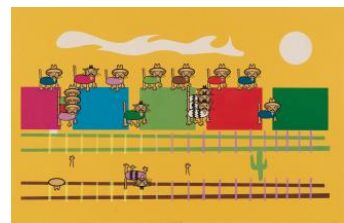
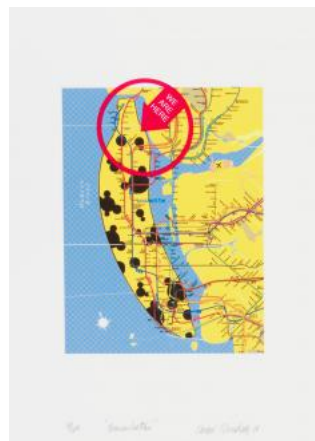
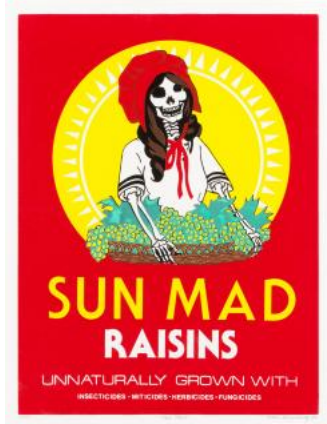
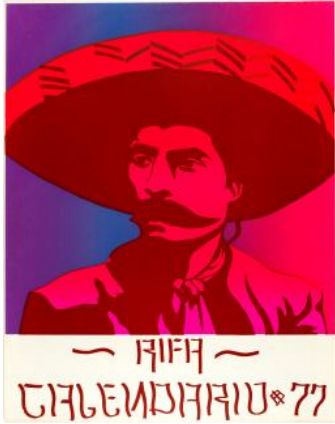
In the 1960s, activist Chicano artists forged a remarkable history of printmaking that remains vital today. Many artists came of age during the civil rights, labor, anti-war, feminist and LGBTQ+ movements and channeled the period's social activism into assertive aesthetic statements that announced a new political and cultural consciousness among people of Mexican descent in the United States. *¡Printing the Revolution!* explores the rise of Chicano graphics within these early social movements and the ways in which Chicano artists since then have advanced innovative printmaking practices attuned to social justice.

More than reflecting the need for social change, the works in this exhibition project and revise notions of Chicano identity, spur political activism and school viewers in new understandings of U.S. and international history. By employing diverse visual and artistic modes from satire, to portraiture, appropriation, conceptualism, and politicized pop, the artists in this exhibition build an enduring and inventive graphic tradition that has yet to be fully integrated into the history of U.S. printmaking.

This exhibition will be the first to unite historic civil rights era prints alongside works by contemporary printmakers, including several that embrace expanded graphics that exist beyond the paper substrate. While the dominant mode of printmaking among Chicano artists remains screen-printing, this exhibition will feature works in a wide range of techniques and presentation strategies, from installation art, to public interventions, augmented reality and shareable graphics that circulate in the digital realm. The exhibition will also be the first to consider how Chicano mentors, print centers and networks nurtured other artists, including several who drew inspiration from the example of Chicano printmaking.

Artists and collectives featured in the exhibition include [Rupert García](#), [Malaquias Montoya](#), [Ester Hernández](#), the Royal Chicano Air Force, [Elizabeth Sisco](#), [Louis Hock](#), [David Avalos](#), [Sandra C. Fernández](#), [Juan de Dios Mora](#), the [Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA](#), [Enrique Chagoya](#), [René Castro](#), [Juan Fuentes](#), and [Linda Lucero](#), among others.

¡Printing the Revolution! features more than 120 works drawn from SAAM's pioneering collection of Latinx art. The museum's Chicano graphics holdings rose significantly with an important gift in 1995 from the renowned scholar



CREDIT

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