



UCLA CHICANO STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

For immediate release

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***La Raza* from UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press Wins Gold Medal from Independent Publisher Book Awards**

May 29, 2020 (Los Angeles, CA) -- The exhibition catalog *La Raza*, published by UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press (CSRC), has been awarded a gold medal in the U.S. History category from the Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPYs). The awards were announced May 6.

The catalog accompanied the exhibition *La Raza* at the Autry Museum of the American West, curated by Luis Garza and Amy Scott, which showcased photographs from *La Raza* newspaper and magazine, active in Los Angeles from 1967 to 1977. The exhibition ran from September 2017 – February 2019 and was presented by the Autry in collaboration with the CSRC. The exhibition was part of the Getty arts initiative Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA and attracted over 150,000 visitors.

Edited by Colin Gunckel, the catalog draws from the more than 25,000 images in the *La Raza* Photograph Collection at the Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC). Corresponding essays offer both scholarly assessments and personal perspectives of the *La Raza* photographers, calling attention to their contributions to community activism, social justice movements, photojournalism, and art history.

Chon Noriega, CSRC Director, and W. Rick West Jr., Autry President and CEO, note the historical uniqueness of the *La Raza* photographers. “Over fifty years ago, a group of young photographers at a new community-based newspaper undertook the type of monumental effort usually associated with government programs or agencies: over the next decade they set out to document their community, while also taking their photographic perspective to other corners of the world.”

La Raza launched in 1967 in the basement of an Eastside LA church and was conceived as a tool for community-based organizing during the early days of the Chicano movement. *La Raza*'s photographers played a critical role as journalists, activists, and artists, creating an unparalleled record of the determination, resilience, and achievements of the Chicana/o community during a period of profound social change.

Contributors to the catalog include several Bruins. Editor Colin Gunckel (PhD 2009), Ernesto Chavez (PhD 1994), and UCLA Chicana/o studies faculty member Maylei Blackwell are among the essayists. Moctesuma Esparza (MFA 1973) and Devra Weber (PhD 1986) and exhibition co-curator Luis C. Garza, who pursued an MFA in the film department, are among the *La Raza* photographers whose works are included in the archival collection at UCLA. Two authors and the co-curator at the Autry earned their PhDs at other UC campuses: Maylei Blackwell (UCSC, 2000), George Flaherty (UCSB, 2011), and Amy Scott (UCI, 2013). The catalog also includes an essay by Raul Ruiz, community activist, educator, and one of the editors of *La Raza*, who passed away in June 2019.

The IPPYs are major book awards for independent publishers, including university presses and museums. CSRC Press previously won a Gold Medal in regional book categories for its exhibition catalogs *L.A. Xicano* and *Laura Aguilar: Show and Tell*. This is the first time a CSRC Press publication has received recognition in a national category.

La Raza is distributed by University of Washington Press: <https://uwapress.uw.edu/> For more information, please visit <http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/> or contact Rebecca Epstein, repstein@chicano.ucla.edu

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