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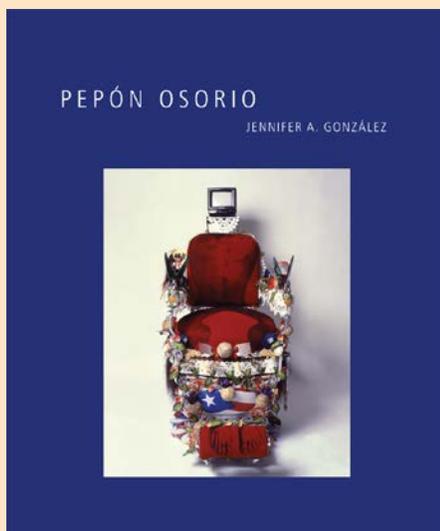
UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Media Release

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Installation artist and social critic Pepón Osorio is focus of latest arts book from CSRC Press

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The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press announces the release of *Pepón Osorio*, the first book-length study of the internationally recognized installation artist and sculptor who upended the 1993 Whitney Biennial with his provocative artwork *Scene of the Crime*. The Puerto Rico-born artist's visually intense installations challenge the stereotypes and misconceptions that shape our view of social institutions and human relationships.

"Osorio situates his work across art and non-art spaces—museum, art gallery, public space, community setting, and home—refusing to presume the authority of the native or insider status in any of them," says CSRC director and series editor Chon A. Noriega. "Instead, he is committed to an artistic process grounded in social justice, collaboration with disenfranchised communities, and blurring of the institutional boundaries for artistic practice and exhibition."

Osorio's work develops from his immersion into a community and the discussions that result. As he addresses difficult themes such as race and gender, death and survival, and alienation and belonging, Osorio asks his audience to reconsider their assumptions and biases.

In *Pepón Osorio*, author Jennifer A. González, professor in the History of Art and Visual Culture Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz, shows that although Osorio draws on his Puerto Rican background and the immigrant experience to create his work, his artistic statements bridge geographical barriers and class divides. With a wry sense of humor he probes sober topics: prison life, domestic violence, AIDS, poverty. The book includes sixty-two color illustrations to reveal Osorio's pieces in a new light.

Pepón Osorio is Volume 9 in the CSRC's award-winning **A Ver: Revisioning Art History** book series. The series is supported in part by the Ford Foundation, Getty Foundation, and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. In addition to its series support, the Joan Mitchell Foundation is sponsor of the *Pepón Osorio* book.

Advance praise for *Pepón Osorio*:

"Narratively powerful (aligned with a history of visual arts storytellers like Adrian Piper and Edward Kienholz), visually compelling, and ethically just, Pepón Osorio stands as a transitional figure bridging museum installation and field-based social practices. He is, in fact, one of the first American figures in this field to focus a deeply implicated, and sympathetic, eye on the lives of the so-called others—the immigrants, the violated, and the working class—in ways that are comprehensible to people from all walks of life."

– Suzanne Lacy, Chair, MFA Public Practice at Otis College of Art and Design, and editor of *Mapping the Terrain: New Genre Public Art*

"In *Pepón Osorio* author Jennifer González seamlessly weaves together the artist's biography with his interventions in the fields of performance, installation, and public art. More than a monograph on a leading artist, this book reveals a sustained, collaborative practice that joins art and politics, museum and *casita*."

– Esther Gabara, a professor at Duke University and author of *Errant Modernism: The Ethos of Photography in Mexico and Brazil*

"*Pepón Osorio* provides an in-depth study of one of the leading installation artists working in the United States. The conceptual depth of his work finds its match in Jennifer González, who teases out the many layers of Osorio's practice from his earliest stage-prop sculptures. Thoughtful and revealing, *Pepón Osorio*, is a must-read for scholars interested in Latino, Puerto Rican, and installation art."

– E. Carmen Ramos, Curator for Latino Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, and curator of *Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art*

Review copies: *Pepón Osorio* is distributed by University of Minnesota Press. For a review copy, please contact Heather Skinner at presspr@umn.edu. Alternatively, contact the CSRC Press at support@chicano.ucla.edu.

About A Ver: The A Ver: Revisioning Art History series explores the cultural, aesthetic, and historic contributions of Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, and other U.S. Latino artists. Each volume contains a foreword by the series editor, a scholarly essay, full-color illustrations, an exhibition history, and a selected bibliography of writings on the artist. Teaching resources are posted online for each title at <http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/publications/book>. As of 2013, the series has received eight international book awards.



The CSRC Press was founded in 1969 to provide a voice for young Chicana/o academics who could not find mainstream publishers. The Press's contribution to academic scholarship continues to grow as Chicana/o and Latina/o studies develop in new directions.

The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center was established in 1969, integrating multidisciplinary research projects with an active library and archive, academic press, and community partnerships. Current research areas include public health, education, economic security, media, and the arts.

To learn more about the CSRC, visit [our website](#), [Wikipedia page](#), [Facebook](#) or [email us](#).

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