

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos of the Chicana Gang and Party Scene in the '90s

BY **ALISON NASTASI** MARCH 6, 2016 10:40 AM



“‘Veterana’ means someone who has put in work or time in the gang culture, and ‘ruca’ is what you call your chick,” Guadalupe Rosales told the *LA Weekly* about her new Instagram account. “If you know these words, you can connect with me and the West Coast.” Veteranas and rucas, which we first learned about on Artbound, is a crowdsourced archive of Chicana life in the 1990s that started as a way to reconnect with Rosales’ past and perhaps find friends and loved ones.

“What I’m interested in posting is women that look like strong women. They look tough, and I like showing photographs like that because I want to say that women can be attractive when they’re strong women,” she explained.

The vintage photos capture a slice of the SoCal gang and party scene, but the account has also reunited people — including Rosales and her former best friend from the East LA party crew Aztek Nation.

The project has captured the attention of [UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center](#) where Rosales exhibited photos, videos, and other memorabilia. She also has a 2017 show at [PSSST Gallery](#) in Los Angeles. Contribute to the project [via Instagram](#).

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