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Thawing the Critical Response

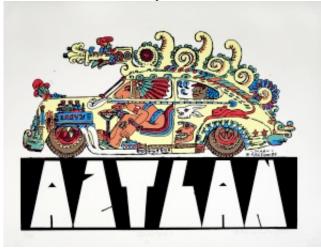
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Audience Response Day at the Fowler Museum

November 10, 2011 By Olufunke Moses Leave a Comment



Aztlan Rifa, 1977, by Gilbert "Magu" Sánchez Luján; photo by Agnes Stauber

In the 1970's, Chicano artists in Los Angeles were using many forms of art to explore the urban landscape. The media they used — whether murals, sculpture or performance art — became vehicles for social protest and charted a local history that had a global reach. Our audience response day at the <u>Fowler Museum</u> focused on "<u>Mapping Another L.A.: The Chicano Art Movement</u>," an exhibition of L.A. artists who helped shape this period. Using whiteboards and scannable QR codes, we asked visitors to respond to questions around their relationship to or knowledge of Chicano Art, and how this art impacts them or their social spaces.

Through their responses, it became clear that whether visitors had little knowledge of the Chicano Art Movement or a direct connection to the art, "Mapping Another L.A." illuminated and educated viewers on,

and reminded them of this rich cultural history.



We learned from oral accounts that the show has also engendered a sense of pride in the community, with older artists sharing their remembrances from the movement and younger ones telling stories of those whose work has influenced their own. The exercise mirrored both the performance and documentary elements that are hallmarks of this exhibition: People enter into a space; shape or are shaped by this space; record their presence within this space — broaden the narrative, extend the history.

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