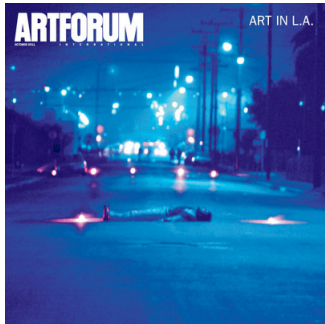


¡Chicano y que?

Jesus Manuel Mena Garza: Another Liberal Chicano from Califas

Friday, September 30, 2011

An LA Chicano artist's best friend: Chon Noriega



[Photo is the cover of the October 2011 issue of Artforum Magazine]

Having lived in SoCal for several years now, I have gained a respect for UCLA professor Chon Noriega. Along with his minions, he has done an incredible job of promoting Southern California Chicano artists. Here are a few examples:

- 1) Helped gain exhibitions at major galleries including LACMA, the Autry, UCLA and the Getty (at the biggies not just the small barrio galleries)
- 2) Coordinated or created compelling articles and books on local artists (quite a few... not just a couple)
- 3) Promoted artists in important publications like the SF Chronicle, LA Times, Artforum, NY Times, etc. (he is a promoter)
- 4) Held panels and events that highlighted Chicano artists (rarely a Northern California Chicano or Chicana in sight)
- 5) Apparently, promoted the work of Chicano artists to international galleries and publications (Mexico, Europe, Asia... nice)

Chon's Los Angeles artistic and academic collaboration is groundbreaking. In San Jose, San Francisco, Berkeley, Austin, etc., Chicanos are typically relegated to smaller galleries even though their work is just as good if not better than their peers in Southern California. These communities don't have a hard-working academic like Chon making waves and news.

Typically scholars are sequestered in their ivory tower writing books and participating on the occasional panel. These tired academics are the norm, but Chon has broken out of this paradigm. This is great for LA artists and definitely bad news for other communities who lack an articulate and passionate person who is promoting Chicano and Chicana art "con ganas". Makes me wish I was born in Los Angeles... almost.

=30-

Posted by Jesús Manuel Mena Garza at 9:06 PM

Labels: [2011](#), [ASCO](#), [Chon Noriega](#), [gallery](#), [Getty](#), [Harry Gamboa Jr.](#), [lacma](#), [UCLA](#)

1 comments:

Chon Noriega said...

Jesus, thank you for the very kind words! They are very appreciated. Whatever I have been able to do would have been impossible without many like-minded partners along the way. Including one from northern California: Tere Romo. And several who hail from Texas: Rita Gonzalez and Pilar Tompkins Rivas. And the many students who also want to help make a difference! More importantly, our success with regard to mainstream venues in L.A. and elsewhere could not have happened without ongoing partnerships with community-based art spaces and artists. Needless to say, our work is not done.

5:08 PM

Super Xicano News

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["Mex/LA" Exhibits Modern Chicano Art](#)
The Occidental Weekly

Harry Gamboa Jr., one of the founders of the Chicano performance art collective, ASCO, is also featured in the exhibit as well as the influential photographer Edward Weston, a Southern Californian who lived and created his most powerful work in Mexico. ...

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[Chicano activism](#)

Corvallis Gazette Times

The reason: Sonny Montes, a leader in Oregon's Mexican-American migrant worker movement in the 1960s and 1970s, was taking part in a talk on Chicano activism. Montes was joined by John Little, the former executive director of the Valley Migrant League, ...

[Chicano Activist Carlos Montes Makes](#)

OC Weekly (blog)

28 2011 at 4:25 PM At the invitation of the Orange County Peace Coalition, longtime Chicano activist Carlos Montes spoke about the serious legal charges he now faces to an audience gathered at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Anaheim. ...

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[Chicano Heritage Takes Center Stage](#)

KFOX El Paso

Saturday, La Fe Preparatory School celebrated Chicano Heritage Month with their 8th Annual Community Festival. Attendees said it was a great way to teach kids the importance of their heritage. "What better way then, you know, a Chicano festival, ...

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