



Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art

Carmen Ramos

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Is Latino art an integral part of modern American art? Presenting over one hundred major artworks from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, *Our America* seeks to "recalibrate" enduring concepts about American national culture by exploring how one group of artists—those of Latin American descent and heritage—express their relationship to American art, history, and culture.

E. Carmen Ramos addresses the whole issue of the definition of "Latino art" and how this emerged within the context of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s as American artists of Latino descent (Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban American, and, more recently, Dominican) began to give a tangible face to their culture and history.

Highlights include an installation altar by Amalia Mesa-Bains, the "recycled" films of Raphael Montañez Ortiz, and a 1960 geometric painting by Carmen Herrera. Other notable artists include Olga Albizu, Melesio "Mel" Casas, Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Margarita Cabrera, Enrique Chagoya, Teresita Fernández, Ken Gonzales-Day, Luis Jiménez, Ana Mendieta, Pepón Osorio, Sophie Rivera, Freddy Rodríguez, and John M. Valadez, among many others.

Winner of first prize in the Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC) award for excellence, 2014

Author and curator **E. Carmen Ramos** is the Smithsonian American Art Museum's curator of Latino art. She has organized numerous shows, including the fifth biennial at El Museo del Barrio in New York City in 2007.

Tomás Ybarra-Frausto, PhD, the "grandfather" of this subject, and formerly associate director for creativity and culture at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, has written and published extensively on US/Latino cultural issues.

Accompanies an exhibition with the following venues:

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, October 25, 2013–March 2, 2014

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University in Miami, FL, March 28, 2014–June 22, 2014

Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, CA, September 21, 2014–January 11, 2015

Utah Museum of Fine Arts in Salt Lake City, UT, February 6, 2015–May 17, 2015

Arkansas Art Center in Little Rock, AR, October 16, 2015–January 17, 2016

Delaware Museum of Art in Wilmington, DE, March 5, 2016–May 29, 2016

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