



Public Lecture Offerings

Thinking about Migration through Latinx Art

Can art effect political change, and if so, how? Can it move us to action, empathy, and hope? I consider these questions as I investigate Chicana (Mexican American) artists' responses to global migration, in particular, Los Angeles artist Sandy Rodriguez (born 1975). Her 2019 installation, *You Will Not Be Forgotten*, comprised of twenty works, was created with traditional Indigenous materials and techniques. Featuring an unusual series of portraits, it commemorates seven Central American child migrants who died in US Customs and Border Protection during 2018 and 2019. I consider the portraits in the context of practices of memorialization, both contemporary and historical, secular and sacred. Why talk about art in the face of such heart-wrenching injustice?

Collapsing Time with Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

This lecture brings contemporary art by Chicana (Mexican American) women artists into dialogue with the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, collapsing and questioning art history's chronological and geographical frameworks and borders. I examine portrayals of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648–1695), famed writer, intellectual, and proto-feminist nun in colonial Mexico. How can recent visual imaginings by Chicana feminist artists illuminate earlier, historical portrayals of Mexico's "Tenth Muse"? Can the tools of Chicana studies force a reconceptualization of art history?

Counter-storytelling Chicanx Art and Conceptualism

Despite the alignment of much Chicanx art with conceptualism and neo-conceptualism, US artists of Mexican American descent have been systematically excluded from mainstream histories of these art movements. Employing Counter-Storytelling, a methodology from Critical Race Theory, as well as the concept of implicit censorship, this lecture reorients the history of conceptualism from the viewpoint of the Chicano civil rights movement. How have Chicanx artists, from the 1960s to today, responded to their exclusion? How can counter storytelling help reveal artistic responses to censorship?

Classroom Discussion Topics

1. Decolonizing Art History

This topic combines lecture and discussion of current efforts to decolonize art history. We will cover important authors and movements, including efforts to tear down public monuments, the #museumsarenotneutral campaign, and Indigenous approaches to decoloniality. What does it mean to decolonize?

2. The Current State of the Study of Chicanx and Latinx Art

This topic combines lecture and discussion to address the current state of research and museum exhibitions of Chicanx and Latinx art. Although I focus primarily on Chicana/o/x (Mexican American) art, we will also consider Latinx art more broadly, with attention to Afro-Latinx art, Central American art, Dominican American art, etc.

3. Introduction to Chicana/o/x Art

This topic combines lecture and Q&A to introduce students to the history of Chicana/o/x (Mexican American) art and its origins in the Chicano civil rights movement of the 1960s. We will cover the basic history, important art forms, including murals and prints, and major concepts such as "rasquache."