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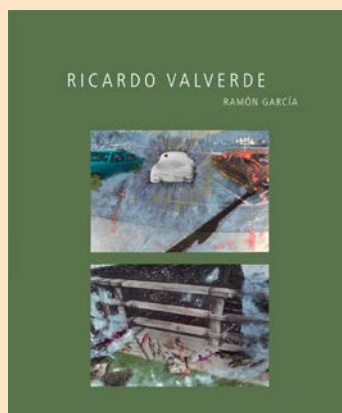
UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Media Release

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August 7, 2013

Photographer Ricardo Valverde is focus of new arts book from CSRC Press

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The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press announces the release of *Richard Valverde*, the first book-length study of the Chicano photographer and mixed-media artist best known for his documentation of East Los Angeles in the 1970s and 1980s that offered a powerful counter narrative to the city's glamorous image.

Featuring an essay by Chicana/o Studies scholar Ramón García and ninety-six illustrations, *Ricardo Valverde* records the unfolding of the artist's vision, from his first photographs of L.A. streets as repositories of the city's social history, to his socially and politically acute portraiture, to his surrealist-inflected mixed-media work late in his career, to his role in the formation of the community-based arts groups Self-Help Graphics & Art, Ojos, and Chicano Art Collectors Anonymous.

"If Valverde set out to document Los Angeles, he did so as a neighbor or participant in the communities that he photographed, not as an outsider documenting a romantic, exotic or stereotypical Other," says CSRC director Chon A. Noriega. "But Valverde was also conversant within both American and Mexican modern photography."

At his untimely death in 1998, Valverde (b. 1946) had for almost three decades documented the various communities and social spaces of Los Angeles. But it wasn't until the Watts Riots of 1965 that Valverde and his work became deeply political—and yet within an aesthetic that grew ever

more critical of the tropes and institutions of documentary art. García, professor of Chicana/o Studies at California State University, Northridge, offers a framework for understanding Valverde's art and life, along with a sense of the personal and social politics and history that influenced both.

Ricardo Valverde is Volume 8 in the CSRC's award-winning **A Ver: Revisioning Art History** book series. The series is supported in part by the Ford Foundation, Getty Foundation, Joan Mitchell Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and UC Mexus.

Advance praise for *Ricardo Valverde*:

Ramón García deftly writes Ricardo Valverde into the history of international photography from specific cultural locations. Valverde's fine art photographs generated scenes of Los Angeles from the late 1960s to the late 1990s; east side family life, bohemian artistic circles, and the built environment of a major US city undergoing a transnational shift. García—a wordsmith of clarity and animated style—makes a convincing case.

—Roberto Tejada, author of *National Camera*, *Celia Alvarez Muñoz*, and *Full Foreground*

Review copies: *Ricardo Valverde* is distributed by **University of Minnesota Press**. For a review copy, please contact Heather Skinner at presspr@umn.edu. Alternatively, contact the CSRC Press at support@chicano.ucla.edu.

About A Ver: The A Ver: Revisioning Art History series explores the cultural, aesthetic, and historic contributions of Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, and other U.S. Latino artists. Each volume contains a foreword by the series editor, a scholarly essay, full-color illustrations, an exhibition history, and a selected bibliography of writings on the artist. Teaching resources are posted online for each title at <http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/publications/book>. As of 2013, the series has received eight international book awards.

The CSRC Press was founded in 1969 to provide a voice for young Chicana/o academics who could not find mainstream publishers. The Press's contribution to academic scholarship continues to grow as Chicana/o and Latina/o studies develop in new directions.

The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center was established in 1969, integrating multidisciplinary research projects with an active library and archive, academic press, and community partnerships. Current research areas include public health, education, economic security, media, and the arts.

To learn more about the CSRC, visit [our website](#), [Wikipedia page](#), [Facebook](#) or [email us](#).