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## UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Media Release

### For Immediate Use

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### **Postminimalist artist Rafael Ferrer is subject of new book from CSRC Press**

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The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press announces the release of *Rafael Ferrer*, the seventh volume in the A Ver: Revisioning Art History book series. Richly designed with seventy-five color illustrations, the book, authored by Deborah Cullen, PhD, is the only major account of the Puerto Rican-born artist who first received acclaim in the 1960s.

U.S.-based Rafael Ferrer was recognized and critically acclaimed for the postminimalist environments he created during the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1980s, however, he turned to painting, producing vibrant figurative canvases that depict life in the Caribbean—an abrupt change that surprised the art world. Now in his seventies, and widely regarded as an “artist’s artist,” Ferrer is more productive than ever. *Pizarras* (Blackboards), for example, a recent major installation piece, is composed of ninety-seven wood-framed slate tablets filled with grisaille paintings that combine bilingual wordplay and iconic shapes. The blackboards mark Ferrer’s continued involvement with urban discourse, transnational culture, and the history of art.

Cullen’s careful analysis of Ferrer’s diverse artwork “demonstrates the profound interweaving of Puerto Rican culture with European and American modernity,” says Bryan Wolf, Jeanette and William Hayden Professor in American Art at Stanford University. Leading Latin American art historian Edward J. Sullivan of New York University identifies Ferrer as “one of the most inventive artists of our time,” pointing to his lively dialogues with artists since the 1950s across surrealism, minimalism, conceptualism, and postminimalism.

**About the artist:** Rafael Ferrer currently lives in Long Island, NY. His most recent exhibition was *Works on Paper, A Survey: 1952-2012* at the Lancaster Museum of Art (Lancaster, PA), September 7-November 11, 2012. He is the younger brother of actor, director, and Academy Award winner José Ferrer.

**About the author:** Deborah Cullen is Director and Chief Curator of the

Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University. She was previously Director of Curatorial Programs at El Museo del Barrio in New York City, where she had worked since 1997.

**Review copies:** *Rafael Ferrer* is distributed by the [University of Minnesota Press](#). For a review copy, please contact [presspr@umn.edu](mailto:presspr@umn.edu). You may also contact the CSRC Press at [support@chicano.ucla.edu](mailto:support@chicano.ucla.edu).

**About A Ver:** The award-winning A Ver: Revisioning Art History book series stems from the conviction that individual artists and their coherent bodies of work are the foundation for a meaningful and diverse art history. This series explores the cultural, aesthetic, and historical contributions of Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, and other U.S. Latino artists. The series is made possible through the generous support of the Getty, Ford, Warhol, Mitchell, JPMorgan Chase, and Rockefeller foundations. Forthcoming books in 2013 include *Ricardo Valverde* and *Pepón Osorio*. For more information about the project, visit the CSRC [website](#).

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**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.

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