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UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

Media Release

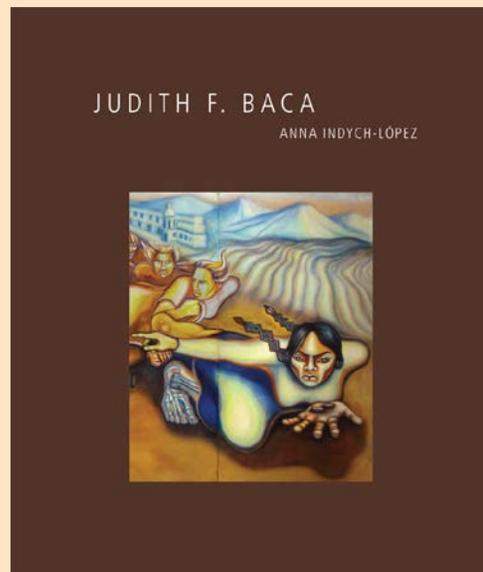
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June 27, 2018

CSRC Press releases first scholarly book on famed Los Angeles muralist Judith F. Baca

- **Winner of Silver Medal for Best Multicultural Nonfiction**
2018 Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPYs)
- **Nominated for Best Arts Book, Best Latina Themed Book, and Best Latino Focused Book Design**
2018 International Latino Book Awards (winners announced this fall)



Judith F. Baca (b. 1946) is best known for *The Great Wall of Los Angeles* (1976–83), an over one-half mile mural that presents a groundbreaking multiracial history of California. Located along the Tujunga Wash, the mural was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. The mural exemplifies Baca’s distinctive approach to creating public art, in which hundreds of community youth and artists have been essential contributors to its conception, realization, and, more recently, its restoration.

“Judy has been a pioneer in public art over the past five decades,” says Chon A. Noriega, CSRC director and the *A Ver* series editor. “Her work is notable for bringing artistic innovation into dialogue with community participation in order to tell a more inclusive version of our collective histories. The CSRC

Press is proud to present the first scholarly monograph to interpret Baca's visionary work and its impact."

Judith F. Baca (CSRC Press, 2018) provides a detailed history and assessment of the artist's work, from early murals created with gang members to the creation of the *Great Wall*, and from her role as founder of the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) to more recently commissioned projects. Written by art historian Anna Indych-López, the book offers a dynamic account of Baca's "public art of contestation" and discusses how ideas of collaboration and authorship and issues of race, class, and gender have influenced and sustained the artist's unique art practice. Close readings of individual works reveal both the art historical influences and formal innovations in Baca's murals. The text is illustrated with eighty-two color figures and four multifold color plates.

About the author: Anna Indych-López is a professor of art history and 2018-2019 Stuart Z. Katz Professor in the Humanities and the Arts at the City College of New York and the CUNY Graduate Center. She is the author of *Muralism without Walls: Rivera, Orozco, and Siqueiros in the United States, 1927-40* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009).

About the artist: Judith F. Baca is co-founder and artistic director of the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) in Venice, California. Since 1996 she has been a professor of Chicana/o studies and World Arts and Cultures at UCLA, a position from which she will retire in June 2018. She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including from the United States Artists and John S. Guggenheim foundations. In 2018 she received an honorary doctorate of fine arts from California State University, Northridge for her achievements as a Chicana muralist, activist, scholar, educator, and community arts pioneer. Her work is currently on view in the exhibition *Radical Women: Latin American Art, 1960-1985* at the Brooklyn Museum through July 22.

Advance praise for *Judith F. Baca*:

"Judith F. Baca has perfected a process of community participation, narrative practice, and large-scale imagery and technical advancement that she initiated while running the Citywide Mural Program in the 1970s. This book, long overdue, gives us insight into how Baca's traits of curiosity, problem solving, and passionate inquiry have served her goal of justice through the arts." –Amalia Mesa-Bains, artist and MacArthur Fellow

Review copies: *Judith F. Baca* 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: *Judith F. Baca* is volume 11 in the award-winning **A Ver: Revisioning Art History** series from CSRC Press. The series is the first to explore the cultural, aesthetic, and historic contributions of Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, and other U.S. Latino artists. Other titles include: *Gronk, Yolanda M. López, Celia Alvarez Muñoz, Maria Brito, Carmen Lomas Garza, Malaquias Montoya, Rafael Ferrer, Ricardo Valverde, Pepón Osorio, and Luis Cruz Azaceta*. The series is supported in part by AltaMed, the Ford Foundation, Getty Foundation, Joan Mitchell Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and UC Mexus. As of spring 2018, the A Ver series has received fifteen international book awards.

The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC) was established in 1969, integrating multidisciplinary research projects with a library, 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](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [email us](#).

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