



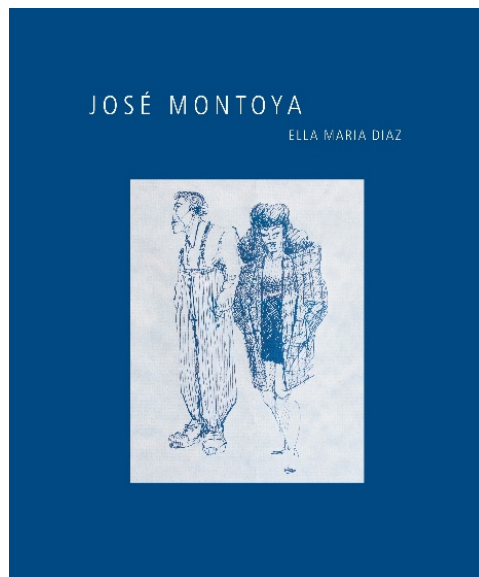
UCLA CHICANO STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

For immediate release

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Famed artist, activist, and educator José Montoya (1932-2013) is subject of new monograph from CSRC Press



March 2, 2021 (Los Angeles, CA) -- The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC) Press announces the release of *José Montoya*, the first scholarly monograph on the prominent Chicano artist, poet, musician, activist, and educator, who died in 2013. The author is Ella Maria Diaz, associate professor in English and Latina/o Studies at Cornell University, who interviewed Montoya, conducted extensive archival research, and consulted with his family and peers. The book is the 12th volume in the CSRC's award-winning *A Ver: Revisioning Art History* series.

José Montoya was a leading figure in bilingual and bicultural expression drawn from barrio life as a defining feature of US culture. As an artist, writer, poet, and musician, he produced iconic works depicting pachuco and pachuca culture drawn from his experiences as a youth in the post-World War II era. These include the poem "[El Louie](#)" (1970) – a foundational and much-anthologized work of Chicano poetry – as well as silkscreen prints, paintings, murals, and thousands of sketches capturing the daily life and social types representing Chicano

communities defined by barrio streets, cantinas, churches, and work sites. Montoya cofounded the art collective Royal Chicano Air Force and helped organize for the United Farm Workers. An influential educator, he established the Barrio Art Program, which continues to offer community art classes in Sacramento, and taught at California State University, Sacramento.

“In this book, Diaz provides an in-depth study of Montoya and his unique body of work,” says CSRC Director and book series editor Chon Noriega. “She provides us a history of ‘Montoya’s mastery of storytelling’ amid a period of profound social change and the emergence of nontraditional artistic practices in the United States, offering a much-needed first step in bringing greater critical attention to a major figure in U.S. art and letters.”

The book is illustrated with reproductions of his work from rarely seen archival slides and documents, as well as from private collections and the Montoya estate. Through oral histories and archival research, Diaz proposes a new model for the study of Latina/o/x artists who reject the boundaries between visual art, poetry, music, education, and community activism.

José Montoya (232 pages, 108 color illustrations) is available for purchase from University of Minnesota Press, a distributor for the CSRC Press: <https://www.upress.umn.edu/> Review copies available upon request. Faculty interested in reviewing the book for course adoption may contact the CSRC Press directly at support@chicano.ucla.edu

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About the Author: Ella Maria Diaz is associate professor in English and Latina/o Studies at Cornell University. She is the author of *Flying under the Radar with the Royal Chicano Air Force: Mapping a Chicano/a Art History* (2017).

About A Ver: José Montoya is volume 12 in the A Ver: Revisioning Art History series edited by Chon Noriega, published by CSRC Press, and distributed by the University of Minnesota Press. This series has received 17 international book awards, and remains the only academic publication dedicated to exploring the cultural, aesthetic, and historic contributions of Latino/a/x artists. Other titles include: [Gronk](#), [Yolanda M. López](#), [Celia Alvarez Muñoz](#), [Maria Brito](#), [Carmen Lomas Garza](#), [Malaquias Montoya](#), [Rafael Ferrer](#), [Ricardo Valverde](#), [Pepón Osorio](#), [Luis Cruz Azaceta](#), and [Judith F. Baca](#). The series has received major support from the Ford Foundation, Getty Foundation, Joan Mitchell Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

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](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or email us at csrcinfo@chicano.ucla.edu.

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