

News&Notes from Michael Sedano

Floricanto en Aztlán Reprint

The last time I talked with Alurista he spoke hopefully of his first collection, **Floricanto en Aztlán**, coming back in reprint. I was partial to **Nationchild Plumaraja**, but Alurista had a soft soft in his heart for this first born.



At the moment, the republication was a *definite maybe*. UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center has done it, brought it back with a new introduction. Per UCLA's [website](#):

With these one hundred poems Alurista created a highly original poetics that upset the literary conventions of the era. Floricanto en Aztlán was first published in 1971, at the height of the Chicano Movement. In this groundbreaking work Alurista presented a new and essentially Chicano poetic language that is part Spanish and part English, with references to the indigenous languages of Mexico.

The reprint celebrates equally Alurista's linguistic *mezcla* and [Judithe Hernández](#)' illustration. UCLA says, *The prints by Judithe Hernández create a dialogue with Alurista's work by depicting poetic references to ancient cosmology and contemporary oppression.*

Los Angeles area gente can attend a 4 p.m. CSRC Library reading by Alurista, with introduction by Marissa López, Wednesday, May 9, 2012. [Contact C/S](#) for datos.

Fundraiser Floricanto

“Poetry doesn't pay the bills” is conventional wisdom backed by hard truth. But it doesn't have to be that way.