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HUMANITIES

Art & Architecture

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The following review appeared in the June 2012 issue of CHOICE:

49-5461 N6538 2011-17781 CIP **L. A. Xicano,** ed. by Chon A. Noriega, Terezita Romo, and Pilar Tompkins Rivas. UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press, 2011. 228p bibl index afp ISBN 9780895511454, \$39.95

As one of the centers of artistic production in the US, Los Angeles boasts an impressive array of Chicano and Mexican American artists. The diversity of their work is at the center of *L.A. Xicano*, a catalogue documenting four interrelated 2011-12 exhibitions held in Los Angeles. Covering primarily works produced after WW II until the 1980s, the catalogue addresses the development of new iconographies, the transformation and critique of stereotypes of Latino communities, the collective production and transformation of the urban landscape, and the Chicano muralist movement. The essays contextualize these works historically and socially, e.g., linking them to the Mexican muralist and printmaking avant-garde. They also provide personal accounts of the artists, their artistic interests and development, and their works. Perhaps most importantly, this catalogue shows this work to be an expression of and dialogue with the culture and environment of Los Angeles. To demonstrate the work's diversity and multifaceted character, the catalogue addresses and presents many artistic techniques (painting, printmaking, muralism, photography, sculpture, architectural interventions, performance, etc.), genres, and influences. It also beautifully reproduces most of the works discussed. **Summing Up**: Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers. -- *L. E. Carranza, Roger Williams University*