



# Revisiting the Portraits of Laura Aguilar, the Pioneering Photographer

## Who Died This Week at 58

If you've ever come across the work of the Mexican-American photographer Laura Aguilar, who passed away at just 58 on Tuesday, then you're probably familiar with Aguilar herself. The body of work she produced over three decades often focused on the body, and especially her own, as well as her identity as a lesbian, audio dyslexic woman of color. And even when her pictures haven't featured herself, Aguilar was dedicated to documenting marginalized and colonized groups, like LGBTQ and Latinx communities. She was ahead of her time in doing so: The set of portraits she took at the Plush Pony, a working-class lesbian bar in downtown L.A., in 1992, for one, offers a rare glimpse of the early 90's queer community of color. That was just one of the places and time periods Aguilar would end up memorializing that make it into the artist's first comprehensive [retrospective](#), "Show and Tell," which stole the show at the expansive "[Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA](#)" exhibition last year. The Aguilar survey traveled to the Frost Art Museum at Florida International University in March, where it will remain on display

until June 3, keeping her legacy alive. In remembrance of the photographer, take a look back at her work, here.

by [Stephanie Eckardt](#)

April 26, 2018 4:22 pm



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

1/19 Laura Aguilar, *Grounded #111*, 2006.

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Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
2/19 Laura Aguilar, *Grounded #108*, 2006.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

3/19 Laura Aguilar, *Motion #47*, 1999.

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Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
4/19 Laura Aguilar, *Stillness #25*, 1999.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
5/19 Laura Aguilar, *Stillness #26*, 1999.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
6/19 Laura Aguilar, *Nature Self-Portrait #2*, 1996.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
7/19 Laura Aguilar, *Motion #56*, 1999.





Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
8/19 Laura Aguilar, *Nature Self-Portrait #2*, 1996.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
9/19 Laura Aguilar, *12 Lauras*, 1993.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

10/19 Laura Aguilar, *Armando*, 1984.

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Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
11/19 Laura Aguilar, *At Home with the Nortes*, 1990.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

12/19 Laura Aguilar, *In Sandy's Room*, 1989.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

13/19 Laura Aguilar, *Three Eagles Flying*, 1990.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

14/19 Laura Aguilar, *Clothed/Unclothed #14*, 1991.

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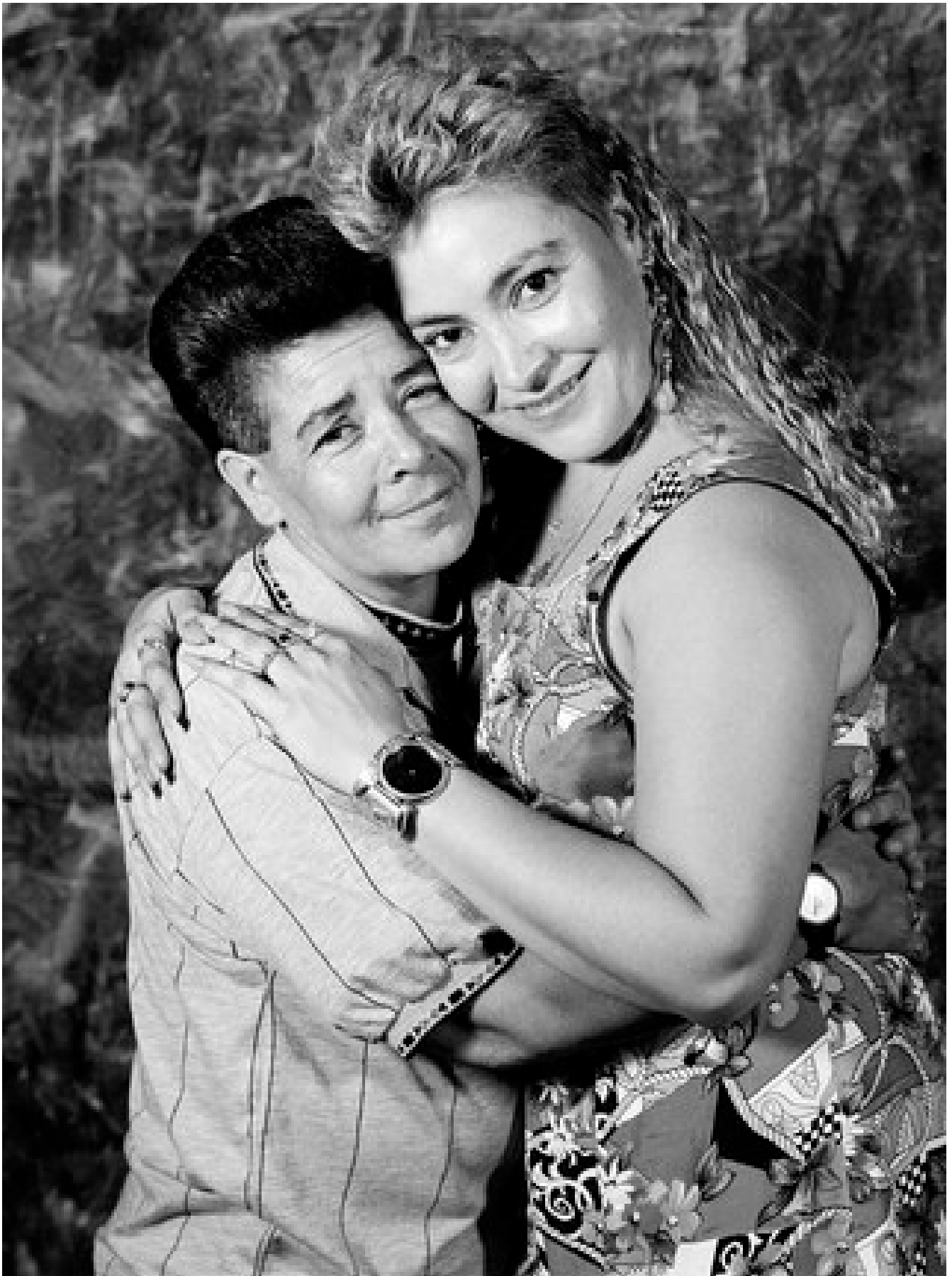
Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

15/19 Laura Aguilar, *Clothed/Unclothed #34*, 1994.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

16/19 Laura Aguilar, *Clothed/Unclothed #34*, 1994.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

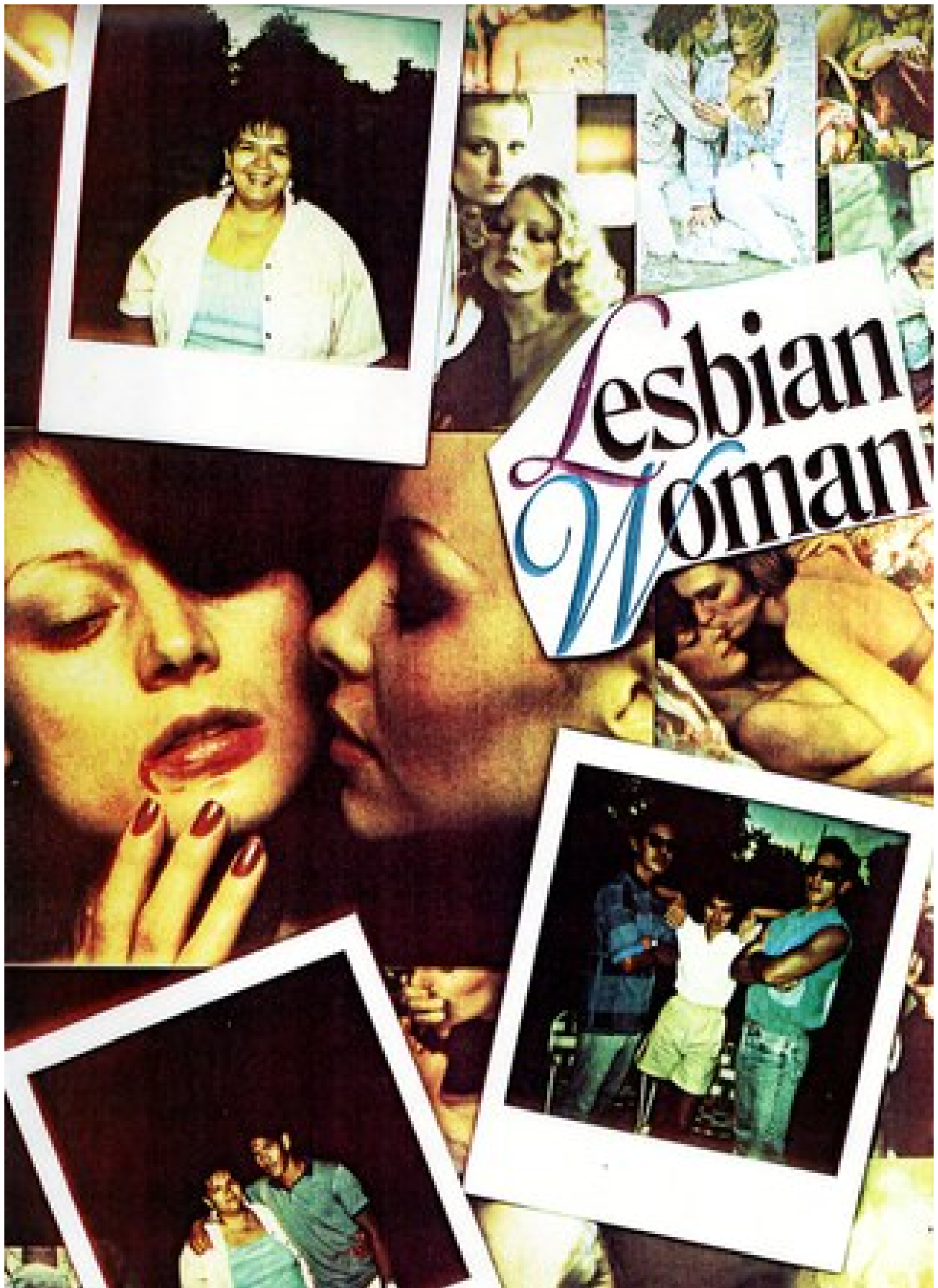
17/19 Laura Aguilar, *Plush Pony #15*, 1992.

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Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
18/19 Laura Aguilar, *Plush Pony #18*, 1992.



Courtesy of the artist and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar  
19/19 Laura Aguilar, *Xerox Collage #2*, 1983.

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