

SOUTH LONDON GALLERY



ASCO: YOUR ART DISGUSTS ME

Wed 3 & 10 Apr 2013, 7pm, £5/£3 conc

This two-part programme looks at the output of the multi-media arts collective Asco. The group claimed their space in the artistic landscape of 1960s and 1970s Los Angeles through an expansive body of photography, film, print and mail art projects, as well as performative happenings on the streets of their native East LA.

Founded by four young Chicano artists - Harry Gamboa, Jr., Gronk, Willie Herrón and Patsi Valdez - the name 'Asco' takes its meaning from the phrase 'me da asco', or 'it (your art) disgusts me'. During its fifteen-year existence, Asco responded directly to subjects such as inequality, the Chicano civil rights struggles and the Vietnam War through camp spectacles and sly conceptual work.

Highlighting Asco's preoccupation with the streets as sites for art, merging performance and happenings with the language of activism and protest, the programme presents experimental film and video, slides, and documentary material. The works included, much of it presented here for the first time in the UK, set out to view Asco's work in conversation with a larger practice of moving image-based work, performative practices and orphan film by Hispanic artists and filmmakers since the late 1960s.

Programme 1 – Wed 3 Apr

The focus of the first programme lies on the context out of which Asco emerged, presenting documentary footage of the time of the Chicano Moratorium march interspersed with original material by Asco and experimental works by their contemporaries.

Mexican American: Heritage in Bronze, 16mm, 1972, 15'

Luis Valdez, *Los Vendidos*, 1972, 16mm, 25'

Willie Varela, *Becky's Eye*, 1974-79, super 8 on DVD, 4'

Asco, *Instant Mural*, performance documentation, 1974, Super 8 on DVD, 2'

Henri Cartier Bresson, *California Impressions* (excerpt), 1970, DVD, segment 3'

David Garcia, *Requiem 29*, 1971, 16mm on DVD, 32'

Harry Gamboa, Jr., *X's Party* (fotonovela), 1983, 35 mm slides and audio cassette (transferred to digital format)

Programme 2 – Wed 10 Apr

The second programme follows the individual works of some of Asco's members in the music and punk scene and presents these together with films that take a closer look at the self-performative aspects of Chicano films.

Harry Gamboa Jr., *Baby Kake* 1985, 6'
Los Illegals, *We Don't Need a Tan*, 1981, 3'
Alice Bag Band, *Live Set Portland*, 1979, 1'
Jesús Salvador Treviño, *Yo soy chicano*, 16mm, 1972, fragment 35'
Agnes Varda, *Mur Murs* (excerpt), 1981, 2'
Jimmy Mendiola, *Pretty Vacant*, 16mm, 1996, 33'

Programmed in collaboration with Jesse Lerner, writer and filmmaker based in Los Angeles.

Booking is essential. Call 020 7703 6120 or book online for [3 April](#) or [10 April](#).

Image: *First Supper (After A Major Riot)*, © 1974, Harry Gamboa Jr., (left-right), Patssi Valdez, Humberto Sandoval, Willie Herrón, Gronk.

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