

# American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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## **Chicana Art and Experience Exhibition Announced at AFL-CIO**

*Over Thirty Works from Prominent Chicana Artists to be Displayed Starting Nov. 19*

**Washington, Nov. 10 --** The AFL-CIO announced today the opening of “Chicana Art and Experience: Mujeres con Garbo,” an exhibition of Chicana art, at its Washington, DC headquarters. Opening Nov. 19, the exhibition will feature over thirty prints, paintings, photographs and posters by some of the most outstanding Chicana artists in the United States today, reflecting on the experiences and struggles of Mexican-Americans in the United States. The pieces are intended to address issues of organizing, immigration, women’s rights, health care, workplace safety, housing, community and cultural identity that affect the Chicano/a community in the United States.

The show will highlight certain icons of Chicana art, such as Ester Hernández’s 1982 *Sun Mad* which appropriates the familiar Sun Maid raisin package to protest the exposure of farm workers to harmful chemicals, and Barbara Carrasco’s 1999 print *Dolores*, which honors the legendary labor organizer Dolores Huerta. The title of the show comes from well-known West Coast muralist Juana Alicia’s poster *Women with Attitude/Mujeres con Garbo*. The Spanish word *garbo* is more complex than the English word “attitude;” it combines assertiveness with grace, elegance and agility—a perfect way to sum up the works that will be on display.

Generally speaking, the term Chicano or Chicana refers to men and women of Mexican descent living or born in the United States. In a narrower sense, the terms denote an individual’s self-identification with a mix of Spanish, indigenous, Mexican and Anglo ancestry and culture. During the late 1960s, the term became associated with the civil rights and labor struggles of the period.

The artists represented at exhibit are comprised of Barbara Carrasco, Ester Hernández, Cecilia Concepción Alvarez, Laura Álvarez, Favianna Rodríguez, Yreina Cervántez, Juana Alicia, Irene Simmons, Delilah Montoya, Laura Molina, Tina Hernández, Yolanda López, Carmen Lomas Garza and Kathy Vargas.

Organized by Rex Weil, an independent curator, artist, writer and educator from Washington DC, the exhibit will run through May 31, 2009. The exhibition is open to the public.

*A view of selected works is available online at:*  
[www.aflcio.org/aboutus/history/art/chicana\\_explanation.cfm](http://www.aflcio.org/aboutus/history/art/chicana_explanation.cfm)