

Galería de la Raza

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Galería de la Raza Launches a 35-Year Digi- Archive

The Digi-Archive includes over 200 exhibitions, images, research and artist info chronicling Galería de la Raza's 35-year history, an invaluable research tool for Latino Arts & Culture in the U.S.!

Date: November 2005

Where: <http://www.galeriadelaraza.org/>

Admission: Just a click away!

Info: For more information, call 415.826.8009 Or email us at info@galeriadelaraza.org

(October 9, 2005: San Francisco, CA) This November, The Galería de la Raza is proud to announce the unveiling and launch of their new *Digi-Archive*. Funded with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, thirty-five years in the making, two years in the planning and four months to the final stretch, the *Galería Digi-Archive* is a comprehensive digital database that includes over 35 years of exhibitions, curatorial essays, scholarly research, exhibition images, audio transcripts, artist bios, and video clips of Galería's institutional history. In the face of mounting cuts for Latino arts, the launch of the *Digi-Archive* marks a major milestone not only for the Galería de la Raza, but for the larger Latino community in the Mission District of San Francisco, and nationwide, as artists and arts organizations seek more meaningful collaborations with their respective communities.

Since its official founding in 1970 by a group of young Chicano artists amidst the social upheavals of the 60's, the Galeria de la Raza has striven to chronicle the evolution of Chicano/Latino artists from their grassroots organizing on behalf of migrant workers in the early 70's, to the creation of a collective cultural memory from which to draw social and political capital. The *Digi-Archive* reassembles the story of those founding members; René Yanez, Ralph Maradiaga, Yolanda Lopez, Ester Hernandez, and Amalia Mesa-Bains - revolutionaries in that they merged a complex assortment of identity and cultural politics to create works that bridged to many struggling artists seeking deeper connections to their communities. The *Digi-Archive* demonstrates how many of these artists continue to impact younger generations of artists in all disciplines through their mentorship, practices and collaborations.

In 2004, the Galería received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create a digital archive of its thirty-five year history. Though CEMA (California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives

at UC Santa Barbara) houses the physical collection of the Galería's archives, the *Galería Digi-Archive* is best described as a digital story of its exhibition and artist history. We hope the *Digi-Archive* will become an indispensable tool for those individuals, community members, and students of all disciplines, media, and arts and culture organizations in search of the many untold and unrecognized imprints by Latino/Chicano artists. Placing the visual spotlight on the revolutionary aspects of Latino aesthetics front and center, the *Digi-Archive* stitches together a larger history of social justice activism, human rights, economic dignity and the race politics that have been an inextricable aspect of Latino/Chicano aesthetics. The Galería de la Raza is proud to introduce the *Digi-Archive* as a way of exploring the cultural/social and political relationships of the hundreds of artists that have exhibited and continue to show their work at the Galería de la Raza.

With the help of our communities, The Galería de la Raza *Digi-Archive* intends to continue the expansion of the archive to honor the contributions of the many Chicano/Latino artists that impact our collective cultural landscape. A special thanks goes to Omid Rashidi for the interface design and Derek Chung for the database creation.

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About Galería de la Raza

Galería de la Raza is an interdisciplinary space for art, thought and activism – Galería organizes cutting-edge art exhibitions, as well as multimedia presentations, performances and spoken-word events, screenings, computer-generated murals and educational activities.

Founded in 1970 by local artists active in El Movimiento (the Chicano civil rights moment), Galería is a non-profit, community-based Latino arts organization located in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District. It is nationally recognized and is one of the Bay Area's oldest, most well respected arts organizations. The Galería is an international forum for the examination and expression of concepts central to Latino experiences.

Through art, the Galería addresses issues confronting Latino peoples such as immigration policy, violence, war, family life, spirituality and race politics.

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San Francisco, CA 94110

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Gallery Hours: Open Wednesday - Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Studio24 Hours: Fall Hours, Monday through Sunday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Summer Hours, Wednesday through Sunday from 12 p.m. to 6p.m. Special Day of the Dead hours, please call 415.826.8009 for more information.

Admission is free.

Galería is accessible by MUNI and BART lines.