Guide to the Ricardo Favela Royal Chicano Air Force Poster Collection
MSS.2005.11.01

Elizabeth Lopez
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Language of Material: Spanish; Castilian
Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Title: Ricardo Favela Royal Chicano Air Force Poster Collection
creator: Royal Chicano Air Force
source: Favela, Ricardo
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2005.11.01
Physical Description: 13 folders(192 posters)
Date (inclusive): 1971-2005
Abstract: The Royal Chicano Air Force Poster Collection consists of 192 posters for community-based programs and events held by the city of Sacramento and students from California State University, Sacramento.
Language of Material: Posters are in English and Spanish.
Access
The collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
Ricardo Favela Royal Chicano Air Force Poster Collection, MSS-2005-11-15, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.
Processing Information
Collection processed and finding aid EAD encoded by Elizabeth Lopez in 2009. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.
Project Information
This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.
Organizational History
The Royal Chicano Air Force is an artistic collective based in Sacramento. Initially named the Rebel Chicano Art Front, the RCAF was founded in 1969 to express the goals of the Chicano civil rights and labor organizing movement of the United Farm Workers. Its mission was to make available to the Chicano community a bilingual/bicultural arts center where artists could come together, exchange ideas, provide mutual support, and make available to the public artistic, cultural, and educational programs and events.

The founding members of the RCAF include José Montoya, Esteban Villa, Juanishi V. Orozco, Ricardo Favela, and Rudy Cuellar. Montoya and Villa knew of each other through their involvement in the Mexican American Liberation Art Front and the California College of Arts and Crafts. During the Chicano Movement students pressured colleges and universities to diversify their faculties. As a result, Montoya and Villa were hired as professors of art at California State University, Sacramento. Their academic positions gave them the creative freedom to initiate programmatic exchanges between the university and the barrio community. Through this effort they initiated many programs including the Barrio Art Program, which required university students to go out into the community including senior centers to teach art courses.

In 1972 the RCAF created the not-for-profit Centro De Artistas Chicanos, a community based organization, which became the spring-board for all types of Sacramento community programs, such as La Nueva Raza Bookstore (with its Galería Posada), Aeronaves de Aztláin (Automotive Repair Garage), RCAF Danzantes (Cultural Dance venue), Barrio Art Program, and the RCAF Graphics and Design Center. By 1977, the Centro de Artistas Chicanos and Breakfast for Niños Program (a community non-profit program that fed children before school) joined forces to create the Cultural Affairs Project, which further funded their many community services.

The RCAF is best known for its mural paintings, poster art production, and individual artistic contributions. The artists of the Centro have produced murals and exhibitions from San Diego to Seattle. The success of the RCAF to engage communities to express their Chicano culture, history and struggle for equal rights, is a testament to the spirit of the collective and it’s significance in the Chicano community and in American society.
While the "RCAF" originally stood for the Rebel Chicano Art Front, people confused the letters with the acronym for the Royal Canadian Air Force. Montoya and his fellow officers capitalized on the misunderstanding, and in good humor adopted the name Royal Chicano Air Force. This new identity found its way into their wardrobe, as well as their highly successful silk screen poster program, which began to disseminate the World War I aviator and brainstorming bi-winged planes as icons. The RCAF gained a well-deserved reputation for outrageous humor, fine art posters, murals, and community activism. Their pioneering spirit throughout the 1970s and early 1980s was well-known in the California Chicano community, and continues to the present.


Scope and Content
The Ricardo Favela Royal Chicano Air Force collection was donated by artist and activist, Ricardo Favela in 2005. The Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF) , a Sacramento-based Chicano artist collective, was established in 1969 by José Montoya, Esteban Villa, Juanishi Orosco, Ricardo Favela, and Rudy Cuellar. The collection consist of 192 posters produced by the founding members, as well as posters by Xico González and Manuel Rios dating 1971-2005 (bulk 1974-1980). The collection represents the 40 years of poster art production by the RCAF.

The RCAF Poster Collection primarily consists of announcement posters for community-based programs and events held by the community of Sacramento and students at the California State University, Sacramento. These posters reflect the historical, cultural, and political expressions of the Chicano community in Sacramento. Other posters in the collection include posters from two calendar series, Calendario de Comida [Calendar of Food] and Calendario de Amor [Calendar of Love], which promote Chicano culture and history and a series of posters sponsored by the California State Department of Mental Health.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into three series: Series I: Announcement Posters, 1974-2005; Series II: Calendars, 1976 and 1978; Series III: California State Department of Mental Health Posters, 1981.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Mexican American artists -- California
Mexican American posters
Royal Chicano Air Force -- Posters
Mexican American art
Royal Chicano Air Force
Favela, Ricardo

Series I. Announcement Posters 1974-2005

Scope and Contents
This series consists of announcement posters for community-based programs and events held by the community of Sacramento and students at the California State University, Sacramento.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by artist's last name.
Folder 1
Día de Salud Rural,
Easter Tardeada,
Emiliano Zapata Park,
Fiesta del Maíz,
Guatemala Earthquake,
HUPA-Benefit Dance,
In the Country Workshops (DQU),
Jumping Contest,
Kermes,
La Carpa de los Rasquachis,
Lowrider Carrucha Show,
Menudo Benefit,
Mercado de las Flores Lowrider Show,
Mexican American Awards Night CUNA,

Folder 2
16th de Sept.,
Dance Benefit for Yes on 14,
Dia de las Madres,
Dia de las Madres button prints,
Dia de las Madres Celebración,
El Partido de la Raza Unida Benefit Dance,
El Shorty Penney de Dina,
ESC,
In Search of Mr. Con Safos,
Justicia para los Campesinos! No Compren en Safeway,
Pan Dulce,
San Pedro es Chicano,
Student Development Center,
Tardeada,
UFW Community Meeting,
Willie Brown
Donate
Día de los Muertos #3
Rivera, Orozco, Siqueiros
A Rebirth in the Barrio

Folder 3
7th Annual Operation X-Mas Unity,
8 Días del Mundo Chicano,
Adelante con Café,
Breakfast for Niños at Curbstone
Calendario Cinco de Mayo
Club Social Los Lobos
Comprehensive Youth Program
Demonstration and March
Día de los Muertos
Día de los Muertos
Diogenes
DQU
Fiesta del Maíz
Free Narciso Perez
Image
International Women’s Year
Jamaica
La MECHA Club
La Voz de Aztlán
Los Lupeños de San José
Folder 3  Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla
Folder 3  Operation Christmas Unity
Folder 3  Rally March for Narcisco Perez
Folder 3  Salsa Series Dance # Four
Folder 3  Salsa Night
Folder 3  Teatro de CSUS Bilingüe
Folder 3  Youth Awareness Workshop
Folder 3  La Raza Bookstore
Folder 3  A Tribute to José Guadalupe Posada
Folder 3  Mexican Independence
Folder 3  Murales
drawer 05-15,  González, Xico
Folder 4  1st Annual Dolores Huerta Activist Recognition Dinner
Folder 4  2nd Annual Dolores Huerta Activist Recognition Dinner
Folder 4  2nd Annual César Chávez Day
Folder 4  A.Chican.Arte Exhibit
Folder 4  Arafat
Folder 4  Arte Revolotoso
Folder 4  César Chávez Day
Folder 4  Cinco de Mayo: Feria de la Primavera
Folder 4  Defeat Bush Compañía
Folder 4  Diga ¡No! a la Prop. 54 / Vote No on Prop.54
Folder 4  El Terminator
Folder 4  Enrique Chagoya
Folder 4  Favela
Folder 4  La Mano Fea
Folder 4  Latino Festival
Folder 4  Maíz (Pa’ Phil)
Folder 4  Montoya
Folder 4  Noche D’ Cultura
Folder 4  Royal Chicano Air Force Poster Art Exhibition
Folder 4  Semana de la Raza
Folder 4  Thai Art
Folder 4  Ultima Cena
Folder 4  Walk out to a Teach-In
Folder 4  We Want You To Join The Brown Syndicate (El Sindicato)
drawer 05-15,  González, Xico (Spray Paint posters)
Folder 5  CHE
Folder 5  EZLN (Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional)
Folder 5  Fidel
Folder 5  Frida
Folder 5  Malcolm Equis
Folder 5  My Soul is My Witness
Folder 5  Paz
Folder 5  ¡Vive la Intafada! Free Palestine
drawer 05-16,  Miscellaneous
Folder 6  Impudent Young Pilots
Folder 6  Valentine Baile - Dance
Folder 6  Viva la Huelga, Viva la Causa
Folder 6  ¡Celebracion Cinco de Mayo!
Folder 6  Mercado de las Flores
Folder 6  Third World Film Series
Folder 6  Christmas Art Sale
Folder 6  Día de las Bellas Artes
Folder 6  Friends of the River
Folder 6
Cesar Chavez
Muchimas Gracias to the City
3rd Annual Raza Legal Info[r]mation [Conf]erence
El Malcriado
73 Summer
Image J.A.L.A.(Jobs in Action for Latin Americans)
RCAF Royal Chicano Air Force
American-Mexican War Veterans
Fiesta de los Colores
tesros de la Raza - Folk Art of Mexico
10th Annual Junta del Nopal
Feliz Cumpleaños Abuelita Querida
Música, Locura, Comida y Mas! para la Gente
16 de Septiembre Mercado
Cinco de Mayo Semana de la Raza
M.A.P.A. Mexican American Political Association

Folder 7
Montoya, José
First Annual Indian American-Chicano Unity
El Centro de Artistas Chicanos
Pachuco
Cesar [sic] Chavez
Raza
Cesar E. Chavez Unity March
50 años - 50th Anniversary Washington Barrio Center

Folder 8
Orosco, Juanishi
1st Annual Mexican American Hall of Fame
2nd Annual Mexican American Hall of Fame
Comma Benefit Dance
Dedication of the New Washington School
Día de los Muertos Art Show
Dinner Dance
Festival Folklorico
Fiesta de Colores
Gran Baile
Las Bellas Artes
Los Uniques
Marcha Pa’L’Agua
Mujeres en Careers Symposium
Need Assistance in Landlord Tenant Rights?
One More Canto
Programa Educativo Vocacional
Progreso New Year’s Dance
Royal Chicano Air Force Band
Solidaridad con la Union de Campesinos
The RCAF’s Art Sale
Tierra Sol Madre Santa

Folder 9
Rios, Manuel
Mujer of the Sun
My Family, My Religion
Self-Portrait
Song Book
Tears of Juarez Woman
The Happy Dead
WNC [Washington Neighborhood Center]
La Folklorista
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series I. Announcement Posters 1974-2005</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drawer 05-16, Folder 10</strong></td>
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<td>Villa, Esteban</td>
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<td><strong>Cannery Workers Committee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chicanos 1st Annual Film Series</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chicano Chrsimtes Art Sale</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dia de Salud</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Environmental Open House Festival</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Galeria Posada Sacra Prints</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Justice for Farmworkers</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Drawer 05-16, Folder 11**            |
| Unknown Artists                       |

**Series II. Calendars 1976 & 1978**

**Subseries Scope and Content Summary**

This series includes posters from two calendar series, *Calendario de Comida* [Calendar of Food] and *Calendario de Amor* [Calendar of Love].

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically.

**Drawer 05-16, Folder 11**

**Calendars**

- *Para mis Jefitas Since the Dawn of Time* from *Calendario de Comida 1976*,
- *Hijos de la gran Tortilla*, from *Calendario de comida 1976*,
- *Yerbabuena, I Know*, from *Calendario de comida 1976*
- *The Last Papa with the Big Potatoe [sic]*, from *Calendario de Comida 1976*
- *Chicana*, from *Calendario de Comida 1976*
- *La Carmen Por Vida*, from *Calendario de Amor*

**Series III. California State Department of Mental Health Posters 1981**

**Scope and Contents**

This series includes a series of posters sponsored by the California State Department of Mental Health.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically by artist's last name.

**Drawer 05-16, Folder 12**

**Mental Health Posters**

- *Veteranos*,
- *Familia Cultura Familia*,
- *¡¡Sus Consejos Valen!!*
- *There is a Tomorrow*
- *Hazlo [Do It] for Better Mental Health*