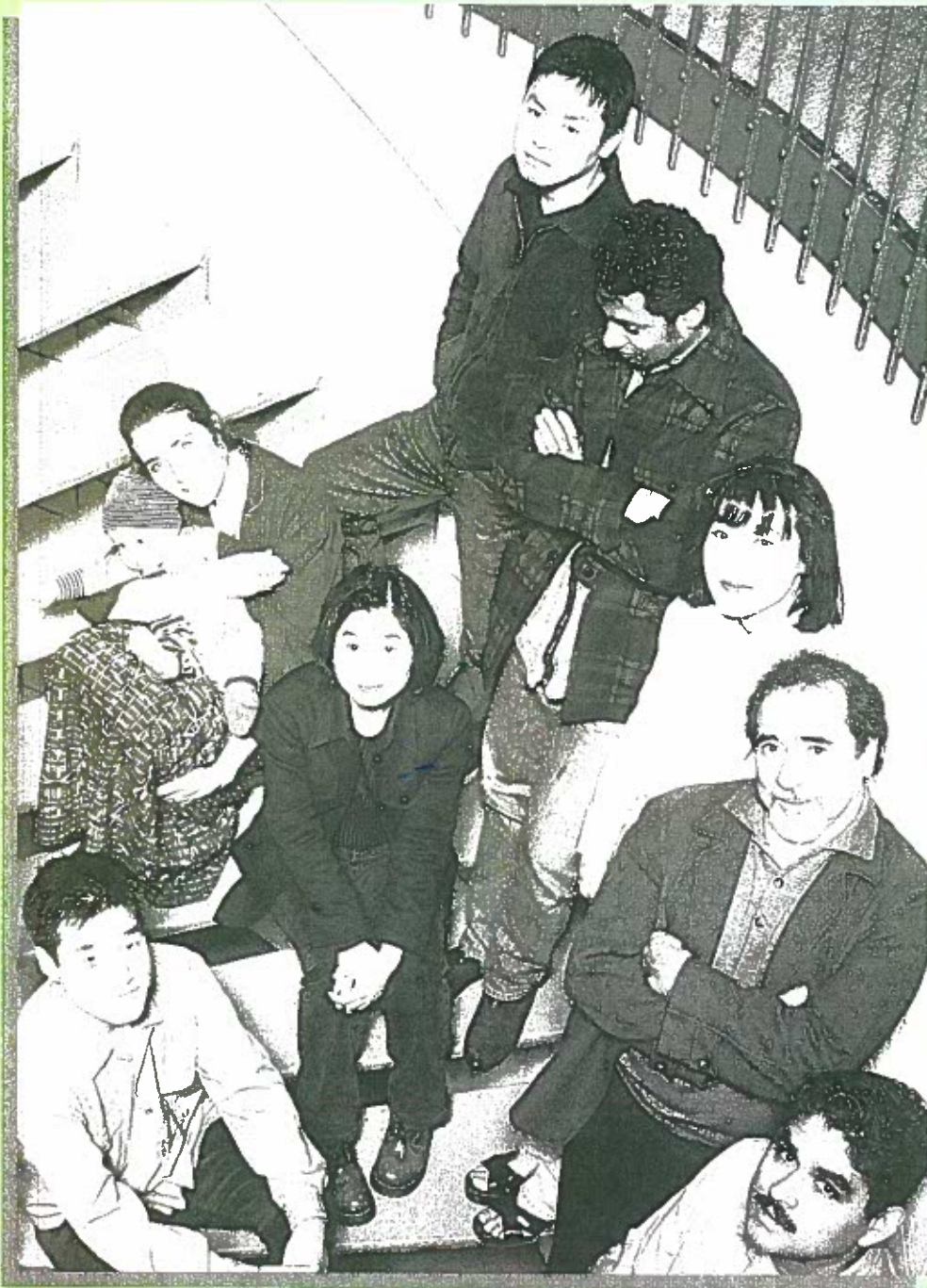


Spring Fever

A Cultural Celebration
with Mexican and
Korean Artists in L.A.



봄의 향연:

한국 · 교남관특무 퍼시브

*Fiebre de
Primavera:
Una Celebración
Cultural con
Artistas
Mexicanos y
Coreanos en L.A.*

1999

An Artful Victory

Cinco de Mayo represents the Mexican victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Although Mexico had subsequent struggles in its ongoing war for independence, each battle was critical for the present-day result. This important exhibition celebrates not a battle of war, but a victory of our ongoing need for cultural understanding.

Art has always celebrated individualism. An artist's cultural background is a constant presence in the creative process, as are the individual memories and experiences that also form one's past. For this reason, it is impossible to generalize about "cultural art," whether it be Mexican or Korean. However, if one element can unite these ten artists, it is their common experience of living in Los Angeles. Whether they live here by birth or choice, they have all been affected by this culturally diverse city, and their individuality reveals itself in their particular responses to it.

Carlos Vargas presents his new series of whimsical cityscapes with bridges, volcanos and tornados, influenced by the downtown area where he lives. Israel also presents new work, increasingly reflective of violence, struggle and identity, set against a backdrop of high-rise buildings. The recent *Hombre en Caja* (Man in a Box) series of Pedro Rios Martinez is a silent, yet forceful response to the onerous demands and frustrations of life. Marianna Sadowski reveals her regard for family, memories and symbols of identity in her recent series, *Los Silencios de la Tierra* (The Silences of the Earth). Inspired by nature as the "intrinsic jewels of life," Suzanne Urquiza presents brilliantly colored close-up paintings of flowers.

Although these five Mexican and Mexican-American artists embrace their heritage, their merit comes from the ability to express individual perspectives in the artwork. This struggle is unique because there are only victors. Through the democratizing powers of art, we are able to break down cultural barriers and celebrate the artist as individual.

Susana S. Bautista
Curator

Cover Photo L. to R.: Young Chung, Gina Han, Marianne Sadowski (and son), Byoung-ok Koh, Israel, Eun Young Kim, Pedro Rios Martinez and Carlos Vargas. Not Pictured: Suzanne De La Cruz Urquiza and Jeehee Paik.

Korean Fever

It gives me great pleasure to present the works of these five Korean American artists in a celebratory joint exhibition held at the Korean Cultural Center and the Mexican Cultural Institute: Young Chung, Gina Han, Eun Young (Kimmy) Kim, Byoung-ok Koh, and Jeehee Paik. They are part of a growing number of younger Korean American artists who are beginning to receive well-deserved visibility in the Los Angeles art scene. All of these artists were born in South Korea and are currently local residents who have studied in U.S. college art programs. The works on view, which range in media from painting, mixed media and sculpture to photography, attest to a flourishing of artistic activity within the Korean American community that is beginning to claim center stage.

Jeehee and Gina, the two painters in this group both approach the canvas as a visual field not of narrative representation but of formal deliberations and iconographic action. The charged abstractions in Jeehee's work is derived from manipulations of evocative motifs such as a hair braid or rope or patterns of a wall paper interwoven into intricate forcefields of symbolism. Gina scrutinizes the interplay of color using bold repetition of basic forms to convey playful shifts of color within a chromatic field. With backgrounds in Painting, both Byoung-ok and Eun Young now work more conceptually using a variety of materials and formats. Byoung-ok is a sly mastermind of an exhilarating range of investigations into often banal processes or quotidian activities using found and concocted assembly of materials. Artifice is both the means and an end for Eun Young in her versatile yet pointed critiques of gender constructions. Accomplished in both video and photography, the selected photographic series by Young for this exhibition elicits responses that can range from hilarity to bittersweet recognition. Young is deft at depicting himself and others in facile, staged situations that unleash a subterfuge of complex relationships and meanings.

Yong Soon Min
Curator

The Mexican Cultural Institute and the Korean Cultural Center take great pride in presenting this joint art exhibit. We wish to create new traditions of unity and mutual respect by exploring each other's culture as expressed through its art.

Young Chung

Gina Han

Israel

Eun Young Kim

Byoung-ok Koh

Pedro Rios Martinez

Jeehee Paik

Marianne Sadowski

Suzanne De La Cruz
Urquiza

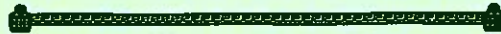
Carlos Vargas

Mexican Cultural Institute

Exhibit Dates

April 30-June 11, 1999

Monday-Friday 10a.m.-5p.m.



Korean Cultural Center Exhibit Dates

May 7-June 3, 1999

Monday-Friday 10a.m.-5p.m.

Saturday 10a.m.-1p.m.

Both galleries will observe Memorial Day -May 31



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