ASCO

83

MAY 18 / JUNE 12, 1983
MARY PORTER SESNON ART GALLERY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
The collective urban Chicano experience of East Los Angeles has been the focal point of social obsessionists, cultural voyeurs, jetters, antirealists, and other elements that cause the mainstream to alter its course as it approaches the perceived barriers of the barrio. In 1972, Gronk, Willie Herron, Patssi Valdez, and Harry Gamboa Jr., inserted themselves into the path of runaway despair, the abandoned auto-destruct that cruised menacingly to the tune of apathy, lethargy, and trigger happy. Their initial group visual/performance interpretations of the multifaceted environment of East Los Angeles was immediately recognized by the Chicano community as being nontraditional, ironic and conceptually political. The Asco street performances of the early 70's such as the “Walking Mural” and “Instant Mural” set a continuing pattern of perceptual assaults against media stereotypes and preconceived notions of cultural normality. During the latter 70's, Asco had broadened its focus with the development of the “No Movie” whereby performances were created for the still camera to communicate concepts in a filmic sense. In the 1980's, Asco has recruited creative participants to present an ongoing growth and hybridization of visual performance to convey images, concepts, and themes of universal concern.
GLUGIO GRONK NICANDRO: “Art in the U.S.A. is hero worship. Hero worship is facism. U.S.A. out of El Salvador!”

WILLIAM F. HERRON III, “One million illegals can’t all be wrong.”

HARRY GAMBOA, JR., “There is a kinetic involuntarism between self hatred and narcissism, the chewing of concrete, and the spilling of artificial blood.”

Gronk will execute a mural directly onto gallery wall which will be whitewashed after closing of exhibition. Gronk shown here with mural at Galeria de la Raza in San Francisco prior to whitewash in 1982.

Detail of Herron section of mural on canvas (acrylic 75’ x 12’). A Herron/Gronk collaboration which originally appeared in Los Angeles in 1981.

“SHADOW SOLO”, written by Harry Gamboa Jr. Performed by Sean Carrillo and Daniel Villarreal.

“SE HABLA INGLES (un viaje en dos idiomas)”, a monologue written and performed by Marisela Norte. “Let us go over there/over there to el otro lado where today’s odds on safe border crossing are at 154 x 1 these odds like the odds on romance and the peso are changing daily.”

“HUMAN RITES” written and performed by Max Benavidez, music by Dianne Vozoff.

VIDEOS INCLUDED IN EXHIBITION


1978 PSEUDOTURQUOISERS video of a live performance by Gronk, Betty Salas, and Gamboa.

PHOTO CREDITS

Photograph of Gamboa on page 4 Copyright 1983, Marisela Norte.
Photograph of Striptease on page 6 Copyright 1983, Juan Garza.
All other photographs in catalogue Copyright 1983, Harry Gamboa Jr.
Photograph of “TITANIC” on page 3 (L. to R.) Cyclona, Betty Salas, Gronk, Victor Martinez, Linda Gamboa, Humberto Sandoval, Diane Gamboa, Therese Covarrubias, Daniel Villarreal, Herron, Gamboa, Patssi.

CATALOGUE DESIGN: ASCO
A multi-media exhibition and performance: Works by Harry Gamboa, Jr., Gronk, William F. Herron III at the Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery, Porter College from May 18 to June 12 and new performance works by Asco at the Kresge Town Hall, Kresge College, University of California, Santa Cruz, on May 20, 1983. Catalog text by Harry Gamboa, Jr. This exhibit is sponsored by the Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery and the UC Santa Cruz Ethnic Studies Committee. Our special thanks to Asco and all the others who have helped to make it all possible, including Greg Arrufat, Amy Bookman, Eduardo Carrillo, Freddy Chavez and the Quien Soy Noodle Company, David Cope, Juventino Esparza, Roque Hernandez, Paul Hersh, Jim Hess, Paul Moffino, Keith Muscutt, Dennis Speer, Richard Vasquez, Rene Yanez and Tomas Ybarra-Frausto.

—Philip Brookman, Director, Sesnon Art Gallery—