

por el pueblo

the legacy and influence
of Malaquías Montoya

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STUDENT CONVERSATION GUIDE

This exhibition traces Malaquías Montoya's influence as a politically-engaged community artist and educator. Malaquías offers a model of politically-engaged art practices to inspire, uplift and give a voice to new generations within the Chicano community and beyond. Use this guide to explore the exhibition and start talking with other students and visitors.

A FEELING OF PRIDE

Malaquías takes pride in uplifting images of working class people, farm workers, Spanish-speakers and Indigenous communities. Malaquías pushes back on the dehumanizing way many of the people in his community have historically been portrayed. As a way to show pride, he creates positive and uplifting images.



What communities do you belong to?



What are ways you could show pride in your community?



Malaquías Montoya, *Mexico Unconquered*, 2010. Courtesy of the Montoya Family.

AWAKENING THE PEOPLE

Posters are an inexpensive and powerful way of sharing art, spreading awareness and getting information to the community. Many artists use posters to quickly explain an issue or tell a story.



Find a poster in this section of the gallery. What do you think the message is about?



Think about an issue that is important to you or your community. How could you use your voice and art to share your ideas with others?



Malaquías Montoya, *Centro Legal de la Raza benefit*, 1978. Courtesy of the Montoya Family.

FOR THE LOVE OF HUMANITY

Art can tell difficult stories as a way to encourage understanding and empathy. Malaquías believes it is important for artists to be tuned in to the world around them and create art that shines a light on the human experience. While many of these images show human struggle, they also call for compassion and inspire action.



What's an artwork or image that has encouraged you to have more understanding or empathy? It might be an artwork in this exhibit or somewhere else.



How can artwork help to tell important stories that inspire action?



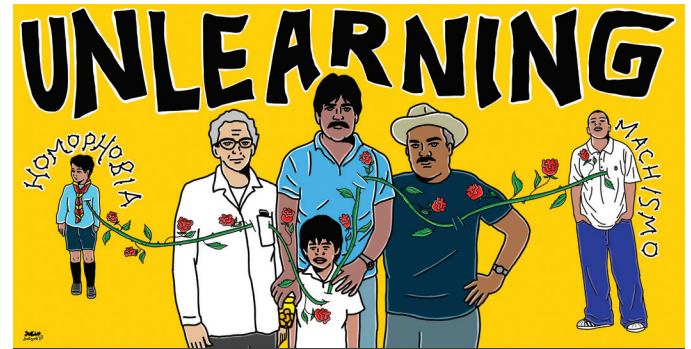
Juan R. Fuentes, *No Olvidadas*, 2019. Courtesy of the artist.

LA JUVENTUD

and

The Future Before Us

Sharing cultural and political knowledge with *La Juventud* (the next generation, or youth) is an essential part of *Chicanismo* (pride in one's heritage as a Mexican American). Millennial and Gen Z artists continue to create art about the most important issues in their communities, often with humor and self-awareness. Some of these artworks show a shift in conversations between different generations.



In the artwork *Unlearning*, artist Julio Salgado embraces negative names and opinions put on him by others. Julio worked with his father to explore *machismo* (aggressive masculine pride) and homophobia (dislike of or prejudice against gay people) that he inherited from the men in his family, and how to unlearn these damaging attitudes of the past.

ARTWORK ABOVE: Julio Salgado, *Unlearning*, 2023. Courtesy of the artist.

Re-generation: letter writing

Before you leave, you're invited to write a letter to someone of a different generation (someone older or younger than you) in response to the questions below.



What have you learned from someone of a different generation? What would you like to unlearn? What do you wish they could understand?