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Asco: Elite of the Obscure, A Retrospective, 1972–1987

February 4, 2012 - July 29, 2012

Asco: Elite of the Obscure, A Retrospective, 1972–1987 is the first retrospective to present the wide-ranging work of the Chicano performance and conceptual art group Asco. Asco began as a tight-knit core group of artists from East Los Angeles composed of Harry Gamboa, Jr., Gronk, Willie F. Herrón III, and Patssi Valdez. Taking their name from the forceful Spanish word for disgust and nausea, Asco used performance, public art, and multimedia to respond to social and political turbulence in Los Angeles and beyond. Asco remained active until the mid-1980s, contracting and expanding to include Diane Gamboa, Sean Carrillo, Humberto Sandoval, Teresa Covarrubias, and Teddy Sandoval, among others.

A fully illustrated 432-page catalogue, accompanies the exhibition. Published by the Williams College Museum of Art and Hatje Cantz the catalogue features essays by the co-curators, reprints of key historical documents, including interviews with the artists, and new critical essays by scholars from a variety of fields (including Maris Bustamante, David E. James, Amelia Jones, Josh Kun, Chon A. Noriega, and others). To purchase the book call 413.597.3233.

Opening Celebration

Friday, March 2, 2012
at the Williams College Museum of Art
15 Lawrence Hall Drive
Williamstown, MA 01267
4:30 pm walk-through of the exhibition with curators
5:30–7:00 pm reception with the artists
Click here for directions to the museum and parking information
(<http://wcma.williams.edu/visit/directions/>).

A Symposium

Saturday, March 3, 2012
1:00–5:30 pm
at the Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
54 Chapin Hall Dr.
Williams College
Williamstown, MA 01267

Reservations are strongly recommended for the symposium as space is limited. To reserve a space for this event, please email wcmareservations@gmail.com (<mailto:wcmareservations@gmail.com>) or call (413) 597-4545.

Related Resources

Asco Exhibition Press Release PDF
(http://wcma.williams.edu/?attachment_id=5098)
Asco Opening Events Press Release PDF
(http://wcma.williams.edu/?attachment_id=5360)

Related Blog Posts

Last Chance to Experience Asco: Elite of the Obscure in Williamstown
(<http://wcma.williams.edu/events/asco/>)
Asco Reviews, Awards, and Acquisitions
(<http://wcma.williams.edu/blog/asco-reviews-awards-acquisitions/>)
Lenox High School Seniors Visit WCMA
(<http://wcma.williams.edu/blog/lenox-high-school-seniors-visit-wcma/>)
Experience East Los Angeles
(<http://wcma.williams.edu/events/experience-east-los-angeles/>)
Asco Tour
(<http://wcma.williams.edu/events/asco-tour/>)

Free parking is available for the symposium in the Williams College parking lot behind Thompson Memorial Chapel, in the First Congregational Church parking lot and in the parking structure behind the '62 Center. Click [here](http://wcma.williams.edu/files/2012/02/Brooks_Rogers_Parking_map_sm.pdf) to download a pdf file of a map (http://wcma.williams.edu/files/2012/02/Brooks_Rogers_Parking_map_sm.pdf) showing these parking locations.

Conversations with artists and scholars

Featuring exhibition co-curators C. Ondine Chavoya, Associate Professor of Art and Latina/o Studies at Williams College, and Rita Gonzalez, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Asco artists Sean Carrillo, Harry Gamboa, Jr., Willie F. Herrón III, Patsi Valdez; scholars Colin Gunckel, Amelia Jones, Amalia Mesa-Bains, and Mario Ontiveros.

Detailed Symposium Schedule

(<http://wcma.williams.edu/files/2012/02/Asco-Symposium-Details.pdf>)

Symposium Videos

Asco: Elite of the Obscure Symposium

Saturday, March 3, 2012

Keynote Address: Amalia Mesa-Bains, artist, cultural critic, and Professor Emerita of Visual and Public Art at California State University, Monterey Bay

Asco: Elite of the Obscure Symposium

Saturday, March 3, 2012

Conversation with Mario Ontiveros, Harry Gamboa, Jr. and Sean Carrillo.

Excerpts from Recent Interviews with Asco Artists



Asco, *The Gores*, 1974, color photograph by Harry Gamboa, Jr. Courtesy

Hear Willie F. Herrón III talk about this photo below in an excerpt from a recent interview.



Asco, *Walking Mural*, 1972, color photograph by Harry Gamboa, Jr. Courtesy of artist. © Asco; photograph © 1972 Harry Gamboa, Jr.

Hear Patssi Valdez recall her memories of the performance depicted here in an excerpt from a recent interview, below.



Asco, *First Supper (After a Major Riot)*, 1974, color photograph by Harry Gamboa, Jr. Courtesy of the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC) Library. © Asco; photograph © 1974 Harry Gamboa, Jr.

Gronk talks about the performance depicted here in an excerpt from a recent interview, below.



Harry Gamboa, Jr., *X's Party* (fotonovela), 1983, 35 mm slides and audio cassette (transferred to digital format), featuring Daniel Villareal and Teresa Covarrubias. Courtesy of the artist. Photograph © 1983 Harry Gamboa, Jr.

