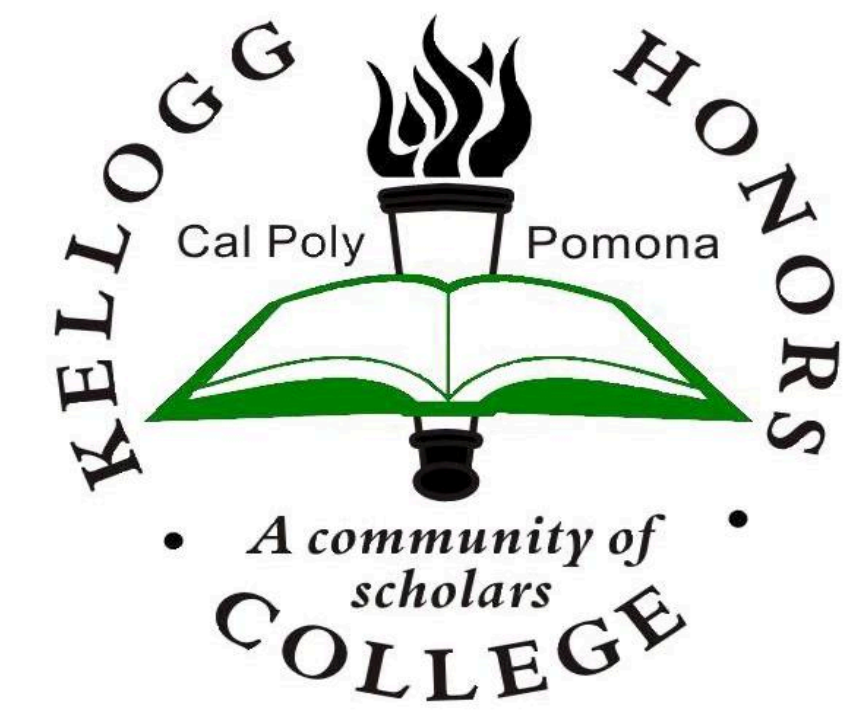


From a Chicano to a Chicana Movement.



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Abstract

Little is known about the role that women have taken in history. In a male dominated society, their accomplishments have often been in the shadows. This project will look at the role that women played in the Chicano Movement during the Civil Rights era and how those contributions gave rise to the Chicana Movement. Faced by the oppression of both their own culture and American society, they saw the need to liberate themselves from the status quo. The Chicano and Feminist movement during the Civil Rights era were a contributing factor of why Chicana women initiated their own movement. Their contributions in the Chicano movement helped them gain the momentum to speak up against the male dominated society they were living in. Through the use of primary and secondary literature and art, the development of the Chicana Movement can be documented as one that emerged because of the Chicano Movement. It was because of their history and struggles that sparked women to involve themselves socially and politically to bring about change for a whole community. This project will ultimately show that women had an essential role in the Chicano movement, and this resulted in the development of the Chicana Movement.

Influence in Political Change

Mexican American women played an important role in bringing about political change for their community. Through labor organizations, women involved themselves politically. Labor Organizations helped women gain confidence in bringing about change because they felt the support that labor organizations provided to them. One example of this type of organization was the Chicana Rights Project, that was established in order to defend Mexican American women's rights. Knowing that they had rights gave them the ammunition to demand equality with a greater voice.



Traditional Role of Mexican Women.

- Religion – The image of the Virgin Mary as a self-sacrificing mother, perpetuated the ideal Mexican Mother as a self-sacrificing individual.
- Machismo- Within the Chicano culture, the male was the one who worked and brought home the financial stability. Although this was the norm, society itself was changing. Since the end of World War II, Mexican women were becoming part of the work force. Women were adapting to American culture and although women were still at the bottom of the social structure, they could work for an economic benefit

Influence in Social Change

Through social activism, literature and art women made their impact in their movement. Social activism took shape in a variety of ways. Women would gather students to take them to school when other moms could not. They volunteered in their local communities to bring awareness in the desire for change. Activism through art was done to show the modern Mexican women. They no longer wanted to be portrayed in the traditional manner, at home, but rather in a new light. It was their desire to show society that they were breaking away from the traditional roles they had been imposed in their culture. Through literature, this message of breaking away from the status quo was also conveyed.



Origins of Chicana Movement

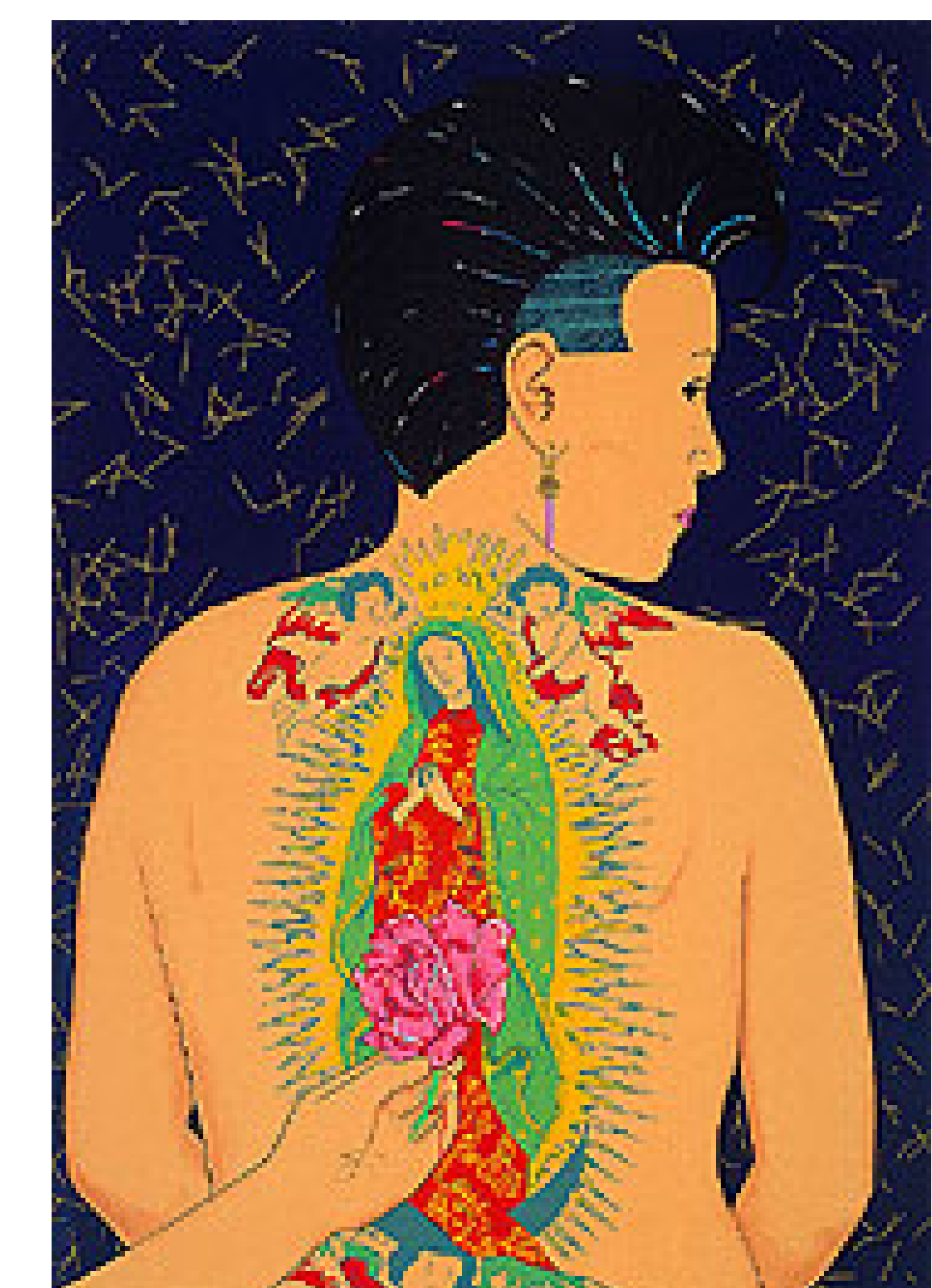
It was the combination of both the Chicano and Feminism movement that steered Chicana women to act for their own cause. Tired of the oppression that they faced within their culture they saw the need to liberate themselves from the male oppressed culture they lived in. The feminist movement helped them gain the strength that women could also organize in a way to demand the rights they deserved. These two movements helped Chicana women gain the strength to organize and create the Chicana Movement.

La Nueva Chicana
The old women going to pray
does her part,
The young mother hers,
The old man sitting on the porch,
The young husband going to work,
But let's not forget the young,
Chicana
Bareheaded girl fighting for equality,
Unshawled girl living for a better world,
Let's not forget her,
Because,
She is LA NUEVA CHICANA
Wherever you turn,
Wherever you look
You'll see her,
She's still the soft brown-eyed
Beauty you knew,
There's just one difference,
A big difference,
She's on the go spreading the word.
VIVA LA RAZA
Is her main goal too,
She is no longer the silent one,
Because she has cast off the
Shawl of the past to show her face,
She is LA NUEVA CHICANA

by Ana Montes

Title: *La Nueva Chicana*
Author: Ana Montes
Date: 1971

In this poem, Montes is describing the image of a modern Chicana. She is a fighter, but also feminine. While the women is still physically beautiful, the beauty she holds is also powerful because it is demanding equality and showing strength.



Title: *La Ofrenda*, From the National Chicano Sreenprint Taller
Artist: Ester Hernandez
Year: 1988

In this image, the artist is portraying the traditional image of the Virgin Mary on a Modern Chicana women. It reflects the social changes that are being made in their culture.



Title : *Tamalada*
Artist: Carmen Lomas Garza
Year: 1990

This image depicts the traditional Mexican Home that is centered in family unity and the teaching of tradition.

Importance Today

The activism that Chicana women partook in is of great importance because it set the stage of the opportunities we have today. Through both political and social activism voices were heard and change was made.