

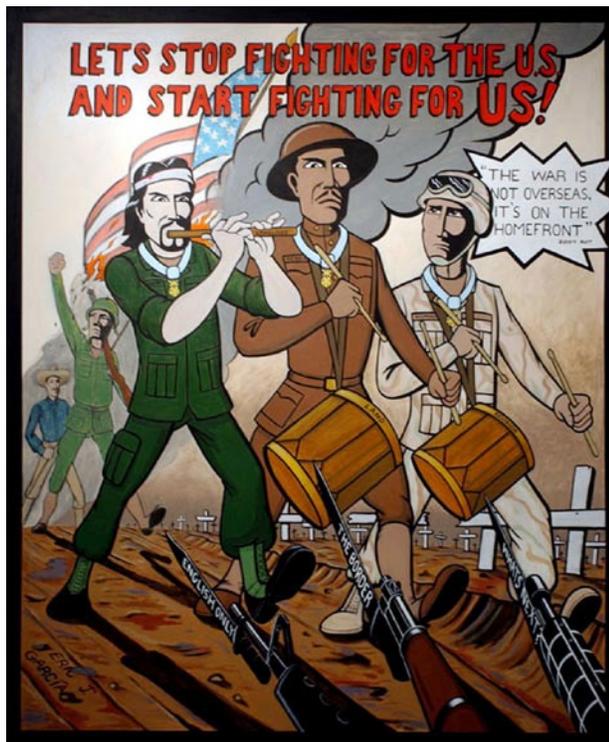
2007/08 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Kraus Family Foundation Award WK Kellogg Foundation Award



ERIC GARCIA
Fine Art
Graduate Student
School of Art Institute of Chicago



History can have great influence on a society and depending on which version of history is given, may affect how one is going to think and act. History is a tremendous force if and if not fully understood can be manipulated to shape a naive audience. Case in point, myself at a young age watching the Disney version of the Alamo. There I was with my coonskin hat on cheering for the Texans to beat the “evil” Mexicans. How could I, a Mexican, be rooting for the Texans? Why did I want to be Davy Crocket and fight the Mexicans? I had just assumed by the way the story was portrayed that the Mexicans were the bad guys, and the defenders of the Alamo were the good guys. Through years of reading and classes I have learned that the story of the Alamo is more complicated than that. The history of the battle of the Alamo, like most histories, is not black and white.



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ERIC GARCIA

Fine Art

I seek to make my art a functional learning tool. Through my work I try to reveal a forgotten and misinterpreted history of the Chicano people. A history that has stripped Chicano youth of their native language, and constantly portrayed them as "bad guys." In my art I use various media from paint on canvas, prints, to ink drawings, all with the goal of educating and challenging the viewers to think critically of the world we live. My painting and drawing style is shaped by the early influence of comic books and colonial baroque paintings, a style I call comic book baroque. Modeled after comic book covers, I use historical information and sarcasm to depict a grand idea into one crucial scene. Using sharp graphic lines, caricatures, and dramatic settings framed in golden ribbons with explanations my art is layered in imagery. As a satirist and political cartoonist I mock not only nations, but also fellow Chicanos in an attempt to create a dialog about pertinent contemporary issues.



I consider my political cartoons in the campus newspaper, the best medium for the greatest political impact into my community. These cartoons are mass produced and distributed free to a wide audience. My cartoons deal with global and local issues, from the environmental to political. The Daily Lobo newspaper is the second largest distributor of newspapers in the city. With such a large audience my cartoons reach thousands of people at least three times a week. My paintings may reach those few who go to see them in some gallery, but these political cartoons have a much wider public audience.

Historical, cultural, and political, this is the holy trinity of my work. Through my art I want to create a dialog about issues that affect identity and history. In order to tackle grand ideas on canvas I must master my skills as an artist, which is why I want to further my education and work towards my Masters degree in the Fine Arts. In graduate school I look to enhance my painting/printing abilities and expand my ideas through new influences and possibilities.

Every warrior has a weapon and mine is my art. I consider my art to be a vehicle for spreading new ideas or awakening old philosophies. Through my work I will try to make art a continuing force that not only reflects the times in which we live, but Art which can also pose a challenge to these times.