

jan shrem and maria **manetti shrem museum** of art

‘Malaquias Montoya and the Legacies of a Printed Resistance’  
Illuminates Multigenerational Quest for Social Justice

October 1, 2023–May 6, 2024



Image credit: Malaquias Montoya, *Yo Soy Chicano*, 2013.  
Screenprint on paper, 26 1/8 x 20 in. Courtesy of Malaquias Montoya and Leslie Salkowitz-Montoya. © Malaquias Montoya.  
Photo: Muzi Rowe.

DAVIS, CA (Aug. 1, 2023) — The influential printmaking career of activist artist and UC Davis Professor Emeritus Malaquias Montoya will be explored this fall in *Malaquias Montoya and the Legacies of a Printed Resistance*, opening October 1 at the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, at the University of California, Davis.

An iconic figure in the Bay Area social serigraphy movement of the mid-1960s, Montoya established screenprinting as a defining medium for political uprisings and advocacy. Embracing printmaking to advocate for social justice, his political posters and flyers employ bold visual declarations against oppression, infusing multilingual text and expressive graphic images to champion political dissension and historical accountability. *Malaquias Montoya and the Legacies of a Printed Resistance* focuses on 23 of his prints, with additional works by Sandra Fernández, Juan Fuentes, Ester Hernandez, Juan de Dios Mora, Ramiro Rodriguez, Royal Chicano Air Force, Xabi Soto Beleche, Alicia María Siu Bernal and Elyse Doyle-Martinez. These works arose from artistic collaborations and partnerships between Montoya and the featured artists and are grouped by five themes: A Better Tomorrow, U.S. Pride in Punishment, Imaginary Borders, Rise of the Farmworker, and In Political Solidarity.

*“Malaquias Montoya and the Legacies of a Printed Resistance* showcases the voices of printmakers across generations who are fighting for social justice and envisioning a brighter future,” said guest curator Claudia Zapata.

“Visitors will gain a deeper understanding of historical figures and movements that have persevered in the face of oppression, as well as an appreciation of the power of art to amplify the voices of marginalized communities around the world.”

Montoya’s multigenerational career as a master printer also includes his tenure at UC Davis from 1989-2008 and co-founding the print center Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer (TANA), an integral creative locus for screen-printing education and technical advisory, with fellow UC Davis Professor Carlos Jackson in 2009. Emerging artists Elyse Doyle-Martinez, Xabi Soto Beleche and Alicia María Siu Bernal participated in Montoya-led political poster and mural workshops and classes as students at TANA and UC Davis.

The Manetti Shrem Museum is honored to collaborate with TANA on exhibition elements and programs of *Malaquias Montoya and the Legacies of a Printed Resistance*. Doyle-Martinez created an original screenprint poster that introduces the exhibition and will be printed in limited quantities at the public Fall Season Exhibition Opening on October 1. This free public celebration also includes *Deborah Butterfield: P.S. These are not horses* and *Undercover / Ayanah Moor*, and a curatorial overview and Q&A with the exhibiting artists. Visit [manettishrem.org](http://manettishrem.org) for more details.

***Malaquias Montoya and the Legacies of a Printed Resistance*** is curated by Claudia Zapata, guest curator, and is on view October 1, 2023–May 6, 2024.

### **About Malaquias Montoya**

Malaquias Montoya was born in 1938 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and raised in California’s San Joaquin Valley. He was brought up in a family of seven children by parents who could neither read nor write in Spanish or English. The three oldest children never went beyond a seventh grade education, as the entire family had to work as farm laborers for their survival. His father and mother were divorced when he was 10, and his mother continued to work in the fields to support the children still remaining at home so they could pursue their education. Montoya graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1969.

From 1969–2008, Montoya was an art professor at several California institutions, including the University of California, Berkeley; California College of Arts in Oakland, and UC Davis, where he taught from 1989–2008 in the Chicana/o Studies Department and later the Art Studio Department, overseeing mural and printmaking courses. His own works include acrylic paintings, murals, washes and drawings, but he is primarily known for his silkscreen prints, which have been exhibited around the world, including in 2023 at Crocker Art Museum and in *Por El Pueblo: The Legacy and Influence of Malaquías Montoya* opening October 6 at Oakland Museum of California.

### **Art Wide Open**

The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at the University of California, Davis, is a contemporary art museum for today, committed to honoring the past and shaping the future while making art accessible and approachable to all. It builds on UC Davis' legacy of exceptional teaching and practice of the arts to offer engaging experiences, exhibitions and educational programs that reflect and serve the community. The museum shares the university's core values of innovative research, interdisciplinary experimentation and a commitment to educational programming. One-third of the museum's 50,000-square-foot space is devoted to instruction, including a 125-seat lecture hall, classroom space and the drop-in Carol and Gerry Parker Art Studio. Opened in November 2016, the museum has earned LEEDv3-NC Platinum status and was named one of the 25 Best Museum Buildings of the Past 100 Years by ARTnews. Admission is Free for All. 254 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA, 95616; [manettishrem.org](http://manettishrem.org).

### **Media Inquiries**

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