

SOLDADERA DE AMOR

Mujeres de Maiz Flor Y Canto



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ZINA

MUJERES DE MAÍZ

Mujeres de Maiz is a collective for, by and of the people, specifically urban wombyn of color. The group started among the writings of empowering mentors; where the penetrating power of Xicanisma and important historical lessons and stories were shared through women's creations and thereby planted in the hearts, minds, and spirits of las Mujeres de Maiz. The influence, inspiration, and empowerment of this women's art, has had a profound impact on various generations and together Las Mujeres de Maiz, have created a much needed space for their own generation, style, and vidas.

After 14 years, Mujeres de Maiz, a wombyn of color creative art collective based on activism and personal, artistic, and spiritual growth continues as a groundbreaking force within underground Los Angeles Chican@, artist, and activist circles. The group has pushed across many borders to create sacred space for women to share their thoughts, experiences, prayers, and politics through the arts and to push theory into flesh. Mujeres de Maiz is where emerging and established women of colors artists share the same stage and page. A group where intergenerational, intercultural and interdisciplinary work is applauded and encouraged, and where a myriad of wombyn of color, from different cultures, generations, religions and traditions come together to honor themselves and all wombyn. It is a place that for many years was the only of its kind, having been the home and start of many of Los Angeles' wombyn performing ARTivists, and where many have shared their creations for the first time and later come to publish and tour their work.

In honor of International Womyn's Day (March 8th), Mujeres de Maiz creates an annual live art show and publication in solidarity with thousands of women across the world, who march for women's rights and important issues. In L.A, the women of this open collective march, pray, organize, and share their gifts, their sacred worlds, words, music, and art...themselves. In these turbulent and changing times, Mujeres de Maiz welcomes you to delve into their amazing creations within a generation's sacred codex and create together, in the words of the Zapatistas, "a world where many worlds fit."

*Mujeres de Maiz
Los Angeles, Califas
2011*

POW(D)ER

Sun, sweat, sweet scent,
with detergent as my agent,
I dissect the evidence
you left with your essence.

My sandpaper hands:
battle with the stain
you brought home last night,
your ears still dancing from the music;
scrape your clothes
jealous of the unknown hands
that hugged you;
brush its every corner
oblivious of the faint perfume
enticing your nose;
soak it to drown the smell of wine,
aware of its sensation clinging
to your lips.

I rinse and squeeze and dry,
as the water replaces my cry;
tomorrow will be the same, and again I'll try
cleaning the hints of your goodbye.

Maria Christina Pangan
Manila, Philipines
2011



Linda Vallejo, "Struck by Lightning", 2007, 40 x 40 in., oil on canvas