



JARI "WERC" ALVAREZ

Pollitos
2008
Mixed Media on Canvas



MARGARET GARCIA

Finding Jesus at the Taco Stand
2009
Oil on Canvas

ABOUT CHICANITAS

Chicanitas: Small Paintings from the Cheech Marin Collection {size doesn't matter} showcases works by various painters represented in Cheech Marin's noted collection of Chicano art. Marin's most recent passion is collecting small paintings averaging 16 inches square and smaller in size. In contrast to other works in his collection, the content of many of these small paintings leans more towards the artist's internal or personal statement rather than as a response to political, social or cultural situations. The paintings, which range from photorealism and abstractions to portraits and landscapes, offer a window into the lives of the artists. Each artist draws on his or her own upbringing, cultural heritage, education, and life experiences for inspiration. With a keen and eclectic eye, Cheech has acquired a collection of paintings by both established and emerging Chicano and Chicana artists. Appearing at first glance as a disparate grouping of paintings, *Chicanitas* begs the viewer to examine, interpret and appreciate each artwork individually. This reveals the true secret of the exhibition that the individual parts are greater than the whole and *size doesn't matter!* (courtesy cheechmarin.com)

IN-GALLERY EDUCATOR RESOURCE

IN-GALLERY ACTIVITY

1. Are there any images in these works you recognize?
2. What is the artist trying to share about his/her experiences?
3. What symbols could you use to describe your life/interests?
4. Use the back of this page to make notes or sketch your ideas with a pencil.

CLASSROOM PROJECT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did the artists represent their background?
2. Why do you think the artists chose to draw from their personal heritage and/or life experiences?
3. Why are our personal backgrounds/life experiences important?
4. Do you see any humor in this work? If so, what elements in the painting indicate this?

PROJECT

Acquire a box and other crafting materials to create a "me" box. Each side of the box should represent school, heritage, experiences, activities, etc. Place something that represents you as a whole inside the box and share with your classmates!

NOTES/SKETCHES: