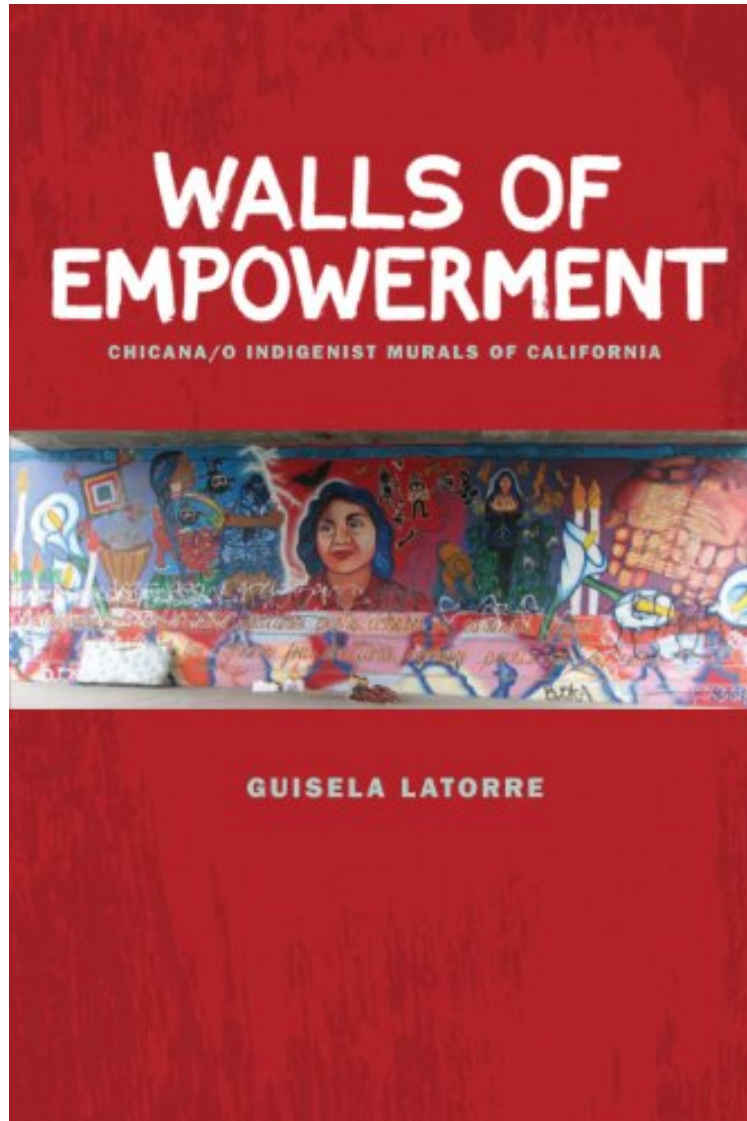


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Walls of Empowerment

Guisela Latorre

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Guisela Latorre : Walls of Empowerment before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walls of Empowerment:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book on murals that may have been wiped awayBy Michael NardoSimply, I love this book mostly because of the artifacts that are being documented, with some works being gone long ago, others at this time will be wiped away and replaced with new work.More people should recognize mural art as a respected art form and not something regarded as something that isn't.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy BluePrintMust have book--contains history and approaches to engaging others in art that

addresses social injustice.

Exploring three major hubs of muralist activity in California, where indigenist imagery is prevalent, *Walls of Empowerment* celebrates an aesthetic that seeks to firmly establish Chicana/o sociopolitical identity in U.S. territory. Providing readers with a history and genealogy of key muralists' productions, Guisela Latorre also showcases new material and original research on works and artists never before examined in print. An art form often associated with male creative endeavors, muralism in fact reflects significant contributions by Chicana artists. Encompassing these and other aspects of contemporary dialogues, including the often tense relationship between graffiti and muralism, *Walls of Empowerment* is a comprehensive study that, unlike many previous endeavors, does not privilege non-public Latina/o art. In addition, Latorre introduces readers to the role of new media, including performance, sculpture, and digital technology, in shaping the muralist's "canvas." Drawing on nearly a decade of fieldwork, this timely endeavor highlights the ways in which California's Mexican American communities have used images of indigenous peoples to raise awareness of the region's original citizens. Latorre also casts murals as a radical force for decolonization and liberation, and she provides a stirring description of the decades, particularly the late 1960s through 1980s, that saw California's rise as the epicenter of mural production. Blending the perspectives of art history and sociology with firsthand accounts drawn from artists' interviews, *Walls of Empowerment* represents a crucial turning point in the study of these iconographic artifacts.

About the Author Guisela Latorre is Associate Professor in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Ohio State University. A specialist in contemporary Chicana/o art with an emphasis on gender and feminism, she has published numerous articles and curated extensive exhibitions in the field.