

Text by Julian Zepeda after Mario Torero's "Chicano Legacy 40 Años"

"Comunidad Dentro de los Azulejos"  
After Mario Torero's *Chicano Legacy 40 Años* (2011)

CONOCIMOS EN MI PRIMER AÑO

Walking to class, five days a week. Though I do regret to say that initially, I did not explore past my basic mental note of "oh that's a pretty mural" when I saw you. Then I enrolled in my first Latin American studies class, where we watched a film and listened to the group of men sing about what some of your tiles pay homage to. They sing about the history you stand for. What you are now a part of. Connecting La Jolla to the people of Barrio Logan and beyond. They sing about the recurring history of resilience against those who tried to dry Chicano soil, but failed as the shovels and the undying will of the people, dug so deep that fruitful soil was found, bringing an abundance of strength and beauty- you remind us of all of that.

AHORA CAMINO Y LOS ESCUCHO CANTAR, ¿TE ESCUCHO CANTAR!

About your celebrations, the people who planted you, nurtured you, and watched you grow and continue to grow in ways that present your beauty, strength, resilience, and love. Creating a face of different time periods and identities, spread across the colorful mini tiles formulated left to right and standing tall.

PIEZA POR PIEZA

To make little pictures, big pictures, little pictures into a big picture! Thousands of shimmering tiles, diverse in color and weathered cracks, mirroring the thousands of people and their efforts that contributed to your making. I brush my hand across your right side, feeling your energy, dispersed evenly through each tile. Again, I remind myself how you depict the communities that rose from the Earth, taking different shapes and walking different paths, all contributing to your greater picture. You paint a reminder to those who walk by that your contributions will not be left ignored or unknown. They shouldn't be...

ERES UNA PUERTA

To the past, present, future. Showing the ancestral roots that display the high scaling structures and people of your origins. Showing how those same roots stem into blossoming flowers of activists who carry your identities and radiance as they push forward with purpose. Within the smiles of the many other faces, holding several different stories that are waiting for open hearts to listen.

DEMOSTRANDO PODER

In how nothing is more beautiful than seeing you glisten in the sun. Reminding all who walk by of your everlasting power. Forty years then, and with the will of the universe, generations to follow from now. You remind those who carry your might that our strength will

not falter. We will continue to walk and just like them we will carry the globe in our hands that cultivated so much of it.

#### CHICANO LEGACY 40 AÑOS

Your roots are deeper than those of the desert plants on the porch of your lecture hall home. Your rich history shows the long way you came and the unfinished paths that you lead, writing your struggles and celebrations as you go. You flourish in so many different ways that this mere piece of writing is not nearly enough to recognize all that has been accomplished.

ASÍ QUE GRACIAS.

GRACIAS POR PLANTAR AQUÍ.  
GRACIAS POR PRESENTARME A TODO LO QUE TIENEN QUE OFRECER A LOS  
ESTUDIANTES Y YO, QUE CAMINAN TODOS LOS DÍAS, FRENTE A TU PODER  
RADIANTE.

AHORA CUANDO CAMINO JUNTO A TI, VOY A ESCUCHAR A LOS HOMBRES  
CANTAR ACERCA DE SU LEGADO, CUARENTA AÑOS Y CONTANDO.