



Punk  
Meets  
Art

Louis  
Jacinto

AVENUE 50 STUDIO 

# **PUNK MEETS ART**

Avenue 50 Studio

July 11 – August 1, 2015

An exhibition of photographs from the seminal  
Los Angeles Punk Rock Music Scene by  
Louis Jacinto

Curated by  
Kene J. Rosa

Kathy Gallegos  
Executive Director

Avenue 50 Studio  
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Los Angeles, CA 90042

[avenue50studio.org](http://avenue50studio.org)

Cover Image: Alice Bag, 1978 (detail)



## Introduction

Louis Jacinto, a legendary, well-known photographer of the defiant LA punk scene of the '70's, has been a good friend of the Avenue 50 Studio since our inception in 2000. While other Chicano photographers were in the streets documenting the political turmoil of Chicano rebellions of that period, Louis was in the clubs documenting the punk music scene's contributions to that politically charged period in our history.

In 2015, Avenue 50 Studio asked Louis to exhibit the photos he took of the punk scene, but to please focus the exhibited photography on the Chicano musicians and artists of that period who rejected the corporate mainstream music world, embracing instead a rebellious self determination to control their musical and artistic destinies. The show that Kene Rosa curated, brought to the forefront the many musicians and bands that, if not for Louis' photographs, may have been forgotten.

Our catalogue, Punk Meets Art, ensures that the history of the '70's Chicano punk musicians, artists, and bands will not be forgotten, but will now exist in our collective memories through this small, but impactful, art historical catalogue.

- *Kathleen Gallegos*  
*Founder and Director*  
*Avenue 50 Studio*



## PUNK MEETS ART

There is no argument that **The Masque** nightclub, founded by **Brenden Mullen**, was ground zero for **Punk** music in Los Angeles. Despite its short 5-month existence – August 1977 to January 1978 – the venue allowed Punk bands to flourish by providing them with rehearsal space by day and as a performance venue at night.

After the demise of **The Masque**, there remained few, if any, venues for Punk bands to perform for their growing legion of fans. Eventually the established rock clubs in Los Angeles such as the **Whiskey A Go-Go** and **The Starwood**, among others, would eventually book Punk bands as they realized good money could be made from the large crowds who supported the local bands. Furthermore, **Madame Wong's** and **The Hong Kong Café** were not yet in place as Punk venues in Chinatown.

An overlooked fact in the history of the **Los Angeles Punk Rock** music scene is the artistic promotional support that Punk bands were given by **Asco**, the art collective from **East Los Angeles**. Formed in 1972 by **Patssi Valdez, Gronk, Willie Herron III** and **Harry Gamboa, Jr.**, **Asco** was punk before punk, turning the local art world upside down with their ground breaking work functioning as a response to socio-economic and political conditions surrounding the Chicano community in East Los Angeles during the 1970s and 1980s and as a response to broader international concerns.

Both individually and collectively, the artists in **Asco** began to ask Punk bands to play at their art openings.

The art crowd, the Punk crowd and everyone in-between showed up at the **Asco** art openings, making these events beyond electrifying.

Because of **Asco**, one was able to catch, in a packed, intimate setting bands that included **The Bags, The Last, The Snappers, Monitor**, and **Fat & Fucked Up**, among others.

**Asco's Willie Herron** formed his own band, **Los Illegals**, in the late 70s.

The **Punk Meets Art** exhibition points out the strong and important influence and contribution of Chicanos in the punk movement here in Los Angeles as well as capturing how diverse the original Punk scene was. Everyone – women, men, Asian, Black, White, Latino, gay and straight – were in the bands and in the crowds, unified that this was **our** music, done **our** way, whether big corporate American music companies paid any attention to us or not!





# The Bags

Alice Bag (Alicia Armendariz)

Pat Bag (Patricia Morrison)

Craig Lee

Rob Ritter

Terry Graham

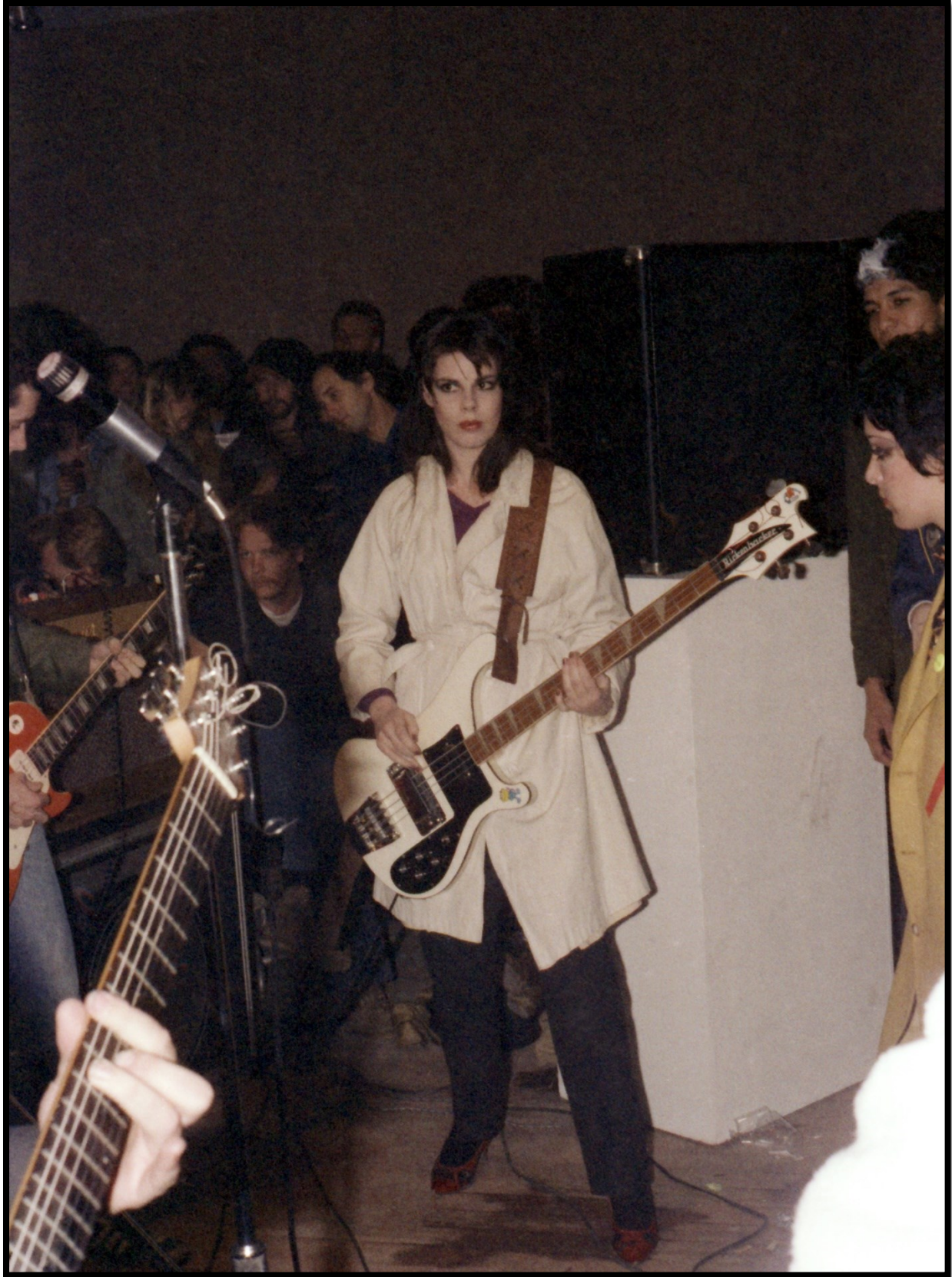


































# The Snappers

Gerardo Velazquez

Mike Ochoa

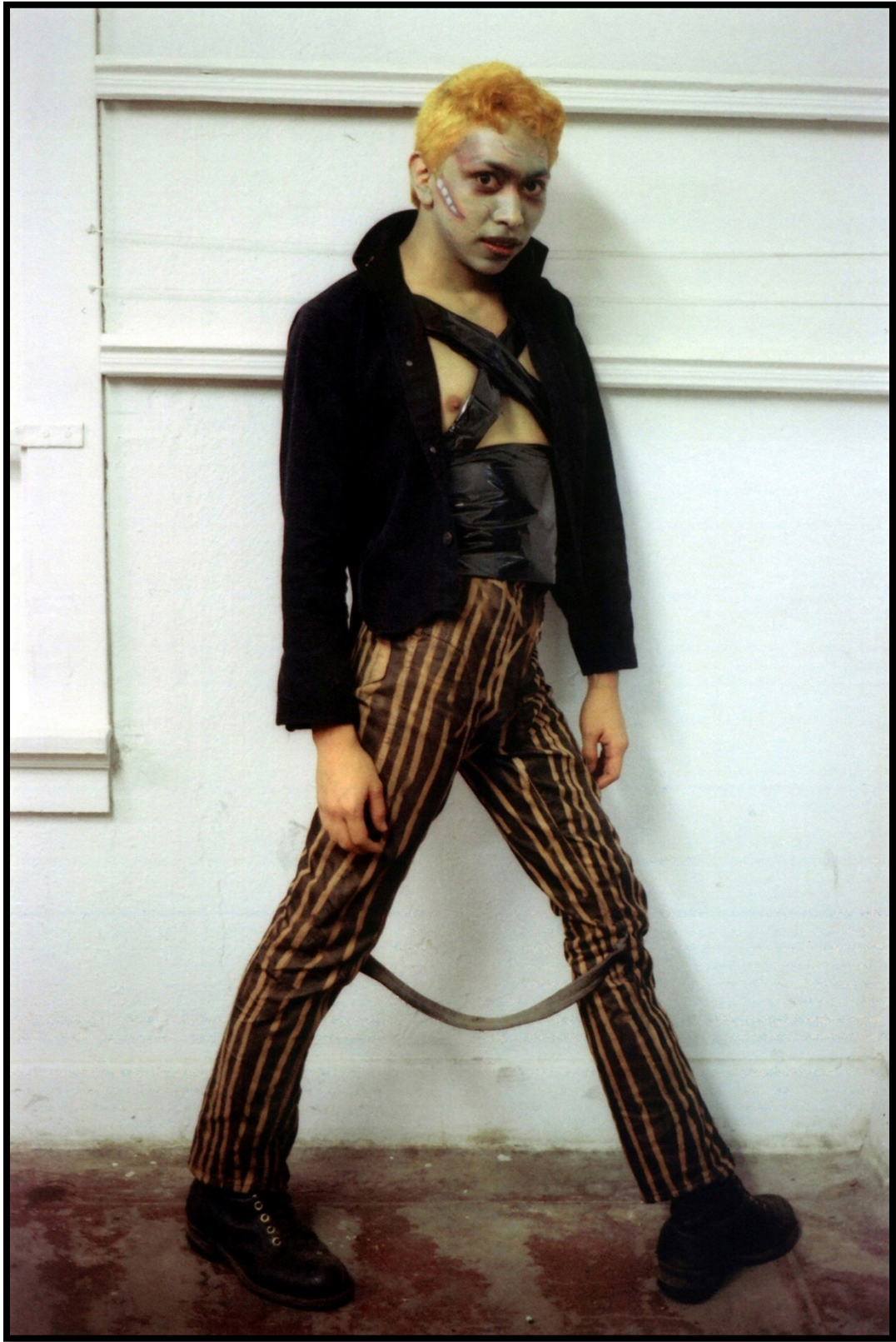
Robert Becerra

Jesse "Fixx" Amezcuita



































# The Go-Go's

Margot Olavarria

Jane Wiedlin

Belinda Carlisle

Charlotte Caffey

Gina Schock







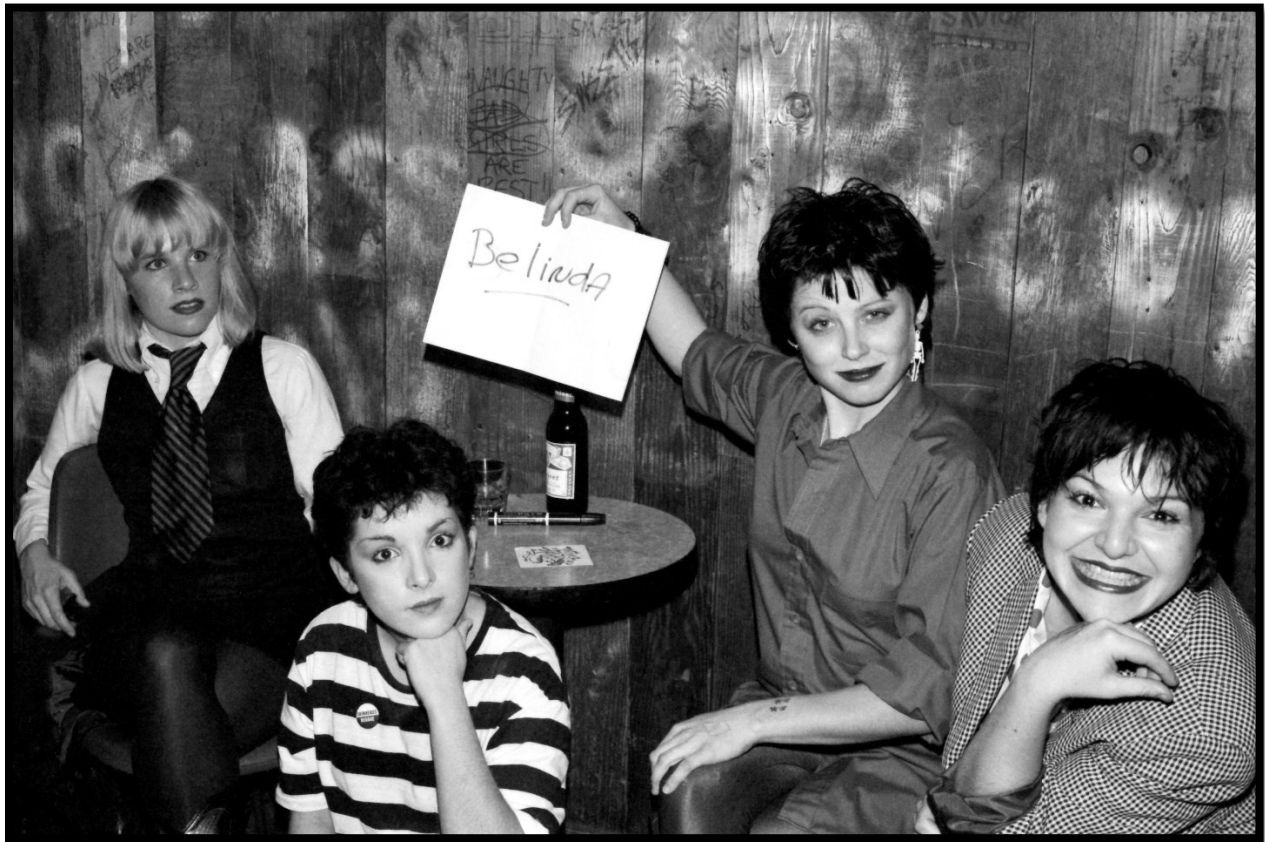




























# Nervous Gender

Gerardo Velazquez

Mike Ochoa

Edward Stapleton

Phranc

Don Bolles

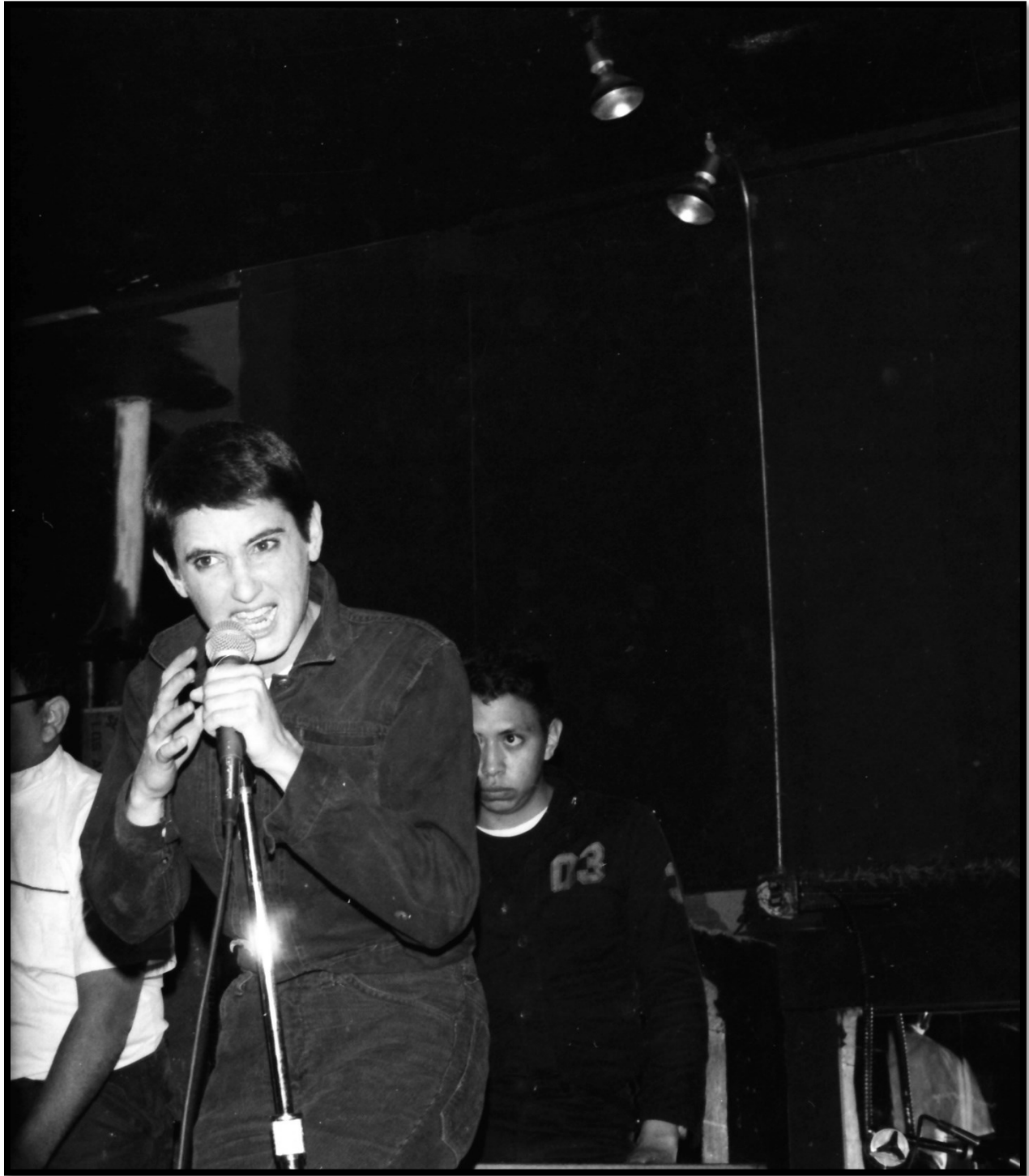


































# Los Illegals

Willie Herron III

Jesus "Xiuu" Velo

Bill Reyes

Manuel Valdez

Tony Valdez

Eddie Ayala



















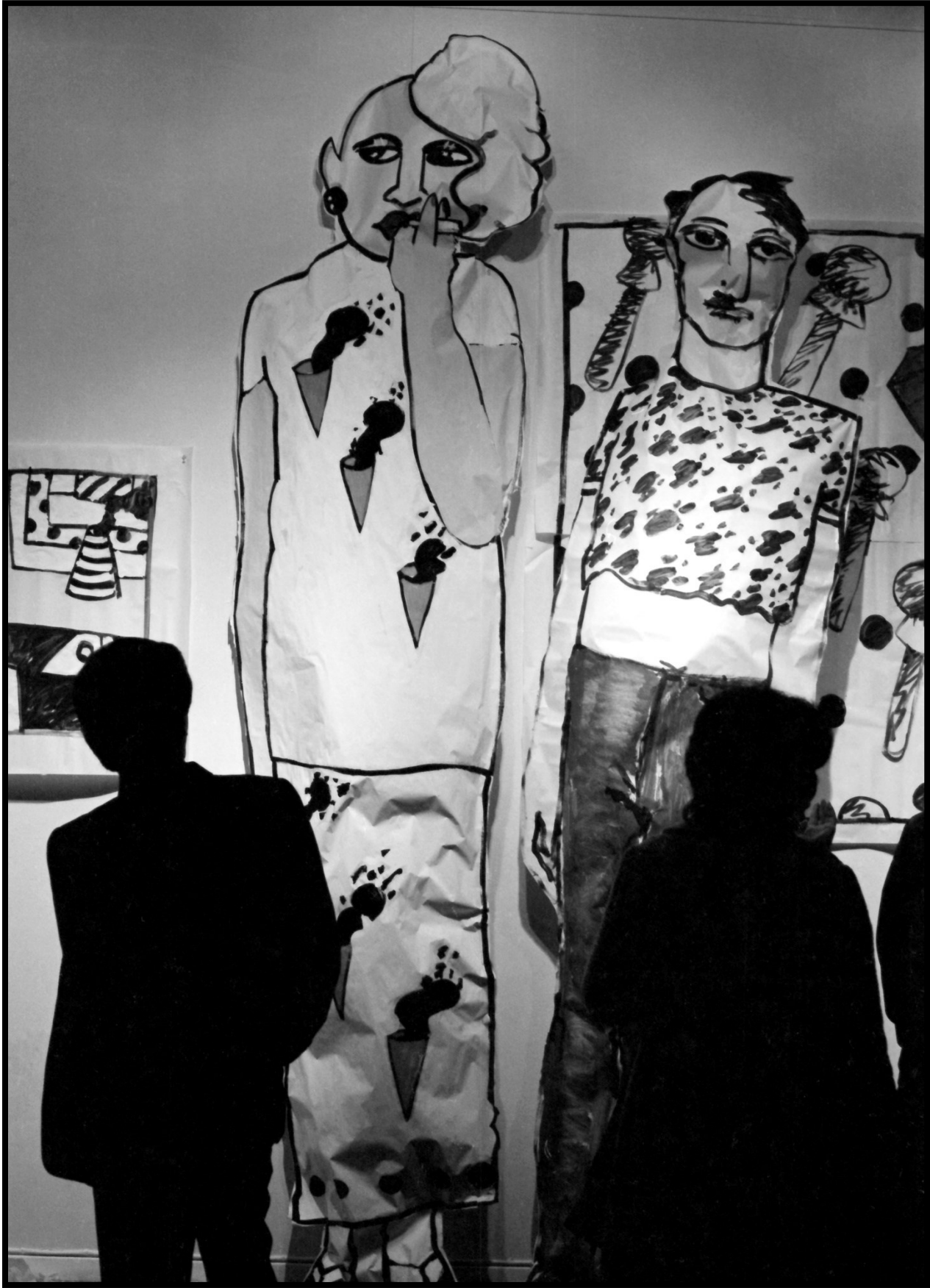


Gronk



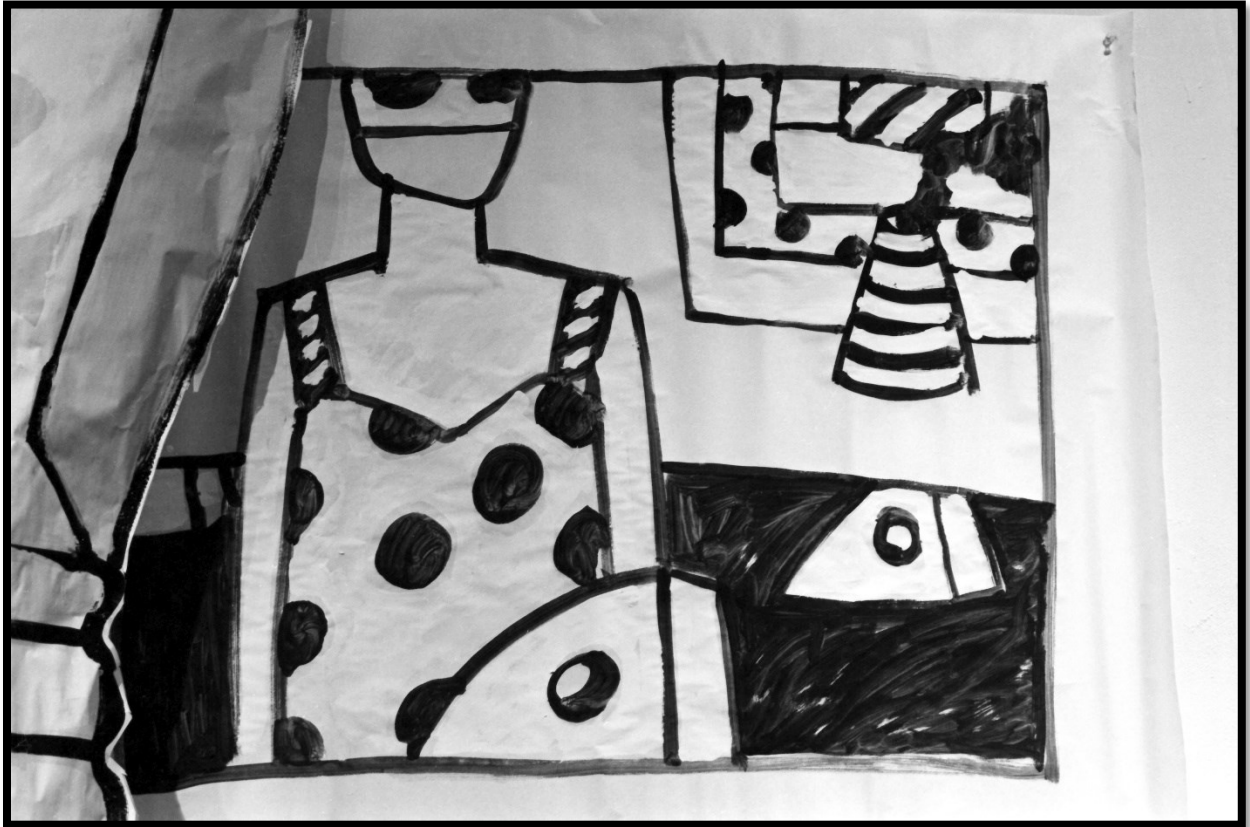












I only photographed the bands that I liked.

And I photographed to make art.

Of all the bands I photographed, these bands were extra special because the kids in the bands looked like me, they thought like me, and they lived like me.

We surrounded ourselves with everyone, from everywhere, all the time.

We didn't know any other way.

Some of us may have been ostracized as kids, treated like outcasts because we seemed different.

The truth of the matter was that we were leaders, ahead of our time.

We still are.

- *Louis Jacinto*



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Louis Jacinto  
onodream.com

Photographs © Louis Jacinto

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