

**CALIFORNIA ARTISTS**  
Projects for Kids

# Enrique Chagoya

Enrique Chagoya (b.1953) draws images from varied cultural sources to create prints & drawings with sharp, humorous political & social satire. Mexican-born, Chagoya earned a degree in political economics before immigrating to the US in 1977 where he studied art, worked in graphics & fostered community projects. He is now a professor at Stanford University. His works juxtapose varied viewpoints & cultural images that simultaneously spark surprise, laughter & thoughtful insight.

## Political Collage

Chagoya's political sensibilities developed as he was growing up in Mexico's turbulent times. He witnessed Mexican police killing hundreds of protesting students & was shocked when the news hid the truth, reporting it as a minor scuffle. Now, his artwork often comments on political issues using insight & humor. In *When Paradise Arrived*, he criticized the ending of bi-lingual education by showing a young Latina girl being flicked away by Mickey Mouse's large hand.

- ◆ Make a political cartoon or collage about a social issue you care about. Brainstorm words, slogans & images that convey the topic.
- ◆ Use a super hero or comic character for humor & contrast.
- ◆ Layer cut paper to collage a background. Draw images & words on it with charcoal or ink to illustrate your point.
- ◆ Share the cartoon with friends. Does it make them think or laugh?



Student artwork by Louis P, grade 5



Enrique Chagoya: *When Paradise Arrived*, 1988; charcoal and pastel on paper; 80 x 80 in. di Rosa Preserve, Napa, California; photo: Wolfgang Dietze, courtesy of Gallery Paule Anglim; © Enrique Chagoya.

## Cultural Connections

Chagoya grew up influenced by the ancient past & lively present: Pre-Columbian history, Mexican folk art & popular American comics & films. As a result, Chagoya delights in opposites, juxtaposing characters in humorous but thought-provoking images. What if Superman could talk with an Aztec god? What would he discover?



- ◆ Learn more about Chagoya & his work at: [www.kqed.org/arts/people/spark/profile.jsp?id=4375](http://www.kqed.org/arts/people/spark/profile.jsp?id=4375)
- ◆ Imagine a character from today meeting one from another time. What might they do? What would they say?
- ◆ Draw & color a meeting of the two characters. Emphasize opposites to focus attention.



Student artwork, grade 9

### Look in the Mercury News

- ◆ Chagoya studied José Posada's satirical drawings printed in Mexican papers around 1910. Search for political cartoons about contemporary issues in your paper.
- ◆ Chagoya borrows to create humorous images. Search the paper to cut & combine a celebrity's head onto another's body.

## Creative Codex

Pre-Columbians had thousands of books, or codices, written in pictorial symbols. Spanish conquerors destroyed all but a few, their meanings & knowledge buried. Chagoya draws inspiration from these books to create picture codices with winding stories. His art borrows & recombines images into visual stories that can be read in any direction, with many interpretations & possible endings.


- ◆ Make a codex story of two characters meeting. Draw & glue cutouts from photos, magazines & comics.
- ◆ Cut a strip of paper & zigzag fold it for book pages. Glue cardboard to ends for book covers.
- ◆ Start with the characters' first meeting. Add new scenes & people.
- ◆ Fill entire strip. Read story from left to right. Read it again from the opposite direction. Does the story change?
- ◆ See Chagoya's artwork through May 18, 2008 at the Berkeley Art Museum: [www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/exhibition/chagoya](http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/exhibition/chagoya)



Student artwork, grade 9

Enrique Chagoya: *Tales from the Conquest/Codex*, 1992 (detail); color Xerox transfer, lacquer, acrylic, and ink 12 1/2 x 18 1/4 x 4 inches (31.8 x 300.4 x 10.2 cm) San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Accessions Committee Fund; gift of Susan and Robert Green, Christine and Pierre Lamond, Madeleine H. Russell, and Judy C. Webb; Photo: Ben Blackwell; © Enrique Chagoya

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