

PORTRAIT  
OF ARTISTS  
AS LATINO  
IMMIGRANTS



WITH:  
VICTOR CARTAGENA,  
EINAR DE LA TORRE,  
JAMEX DE LA TORRE  
AND MARÍA AMPARO  
ESCANDÓN



DIRECTORS:  
FACUNDO LUJÁN  
TANIA WAISBERG



A GLIMMER RAMONES  
DOCUMENTARY

# Portrait of Artists as Latino Immigrants

A Glimmer Ramones Documentary

**Best Latino Film  
Sacramento Film Festival**

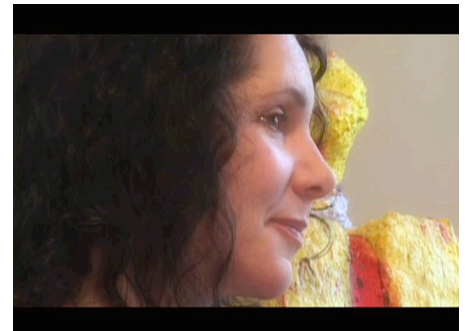
**Best Biography Film  
San Francisco Women's Film Festival**

**with:  
Victor CARTAGENA,  
Einar DE LA TORRE,  
Jamex DE LA TORRE,  
María Amparo ESCANDÓN**

**Directors:  
Facundo LUJÁN  
Tania WAISBERG**

“A fascinating depiction of the often times harrowing transitions immigrant artists make when coming to the United States... Portrait of artists as Latino Immigrants is an insightful and elucidating snapshot of their lives and works.”

Jonathan Crosby.



## **Festival & Screenings**

### **Calgary International Film Festival 2006**

(2006 - Calgary, AB, Canada)

### **"Snapshots of Exodus" - Salem Art Association**

(2006 - Salem, OR)

### **Encuentros - Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts**

(2006 - San Francisco, CA)

### **2006 Nosotros American Latino Film Festival**

(2006 - Hollywood, CA)

### **2006 San Francisco Women's Film Festival**

**Best Biography Film**

(2006 - San Francisco, CA)

### **2006 Sacramento Film Festival**

**Best Latino Film**

(2006 - Sacramento)

### **28th CineFestival**

(2005 - San Antonio, TX)

### **2005 Santa Clarita Independent Film Festival**

(2005 - Santa Clarita, CA)

### **"Cine Sin Fin" 11th Annual East LA Chicana/o Film Festival**

(2005 - Los Angeles, CA)

### **"International Student Film Festival Hollywood"**

(2005 - North Hollywood, CA)

### **"2005 Detroit Docs International Film Festival"**

(2005 - Detroit, MI)

### **"2nd Annual Texas Independent Filmmakers International Film Festival"**

(2005 - San Antonio, TX)

### **"Tallgrass Film Festival"**

(2005 - Wichita, KS)

### **"4th Oakland International Film Festival"**

(2005 - Oakland, CA)

### **"Wine Country Film Festival"**

(2005 - Sonoma, CA)

### **"Sin Fronteras - Festival de las Américas"**

(2005 - Albuquerque, NM)

### **Trenton Film Festival - In the Public Service Series**

(2005 - Trenton NJ)

## **Log Line**

“Portrait of Artists as Latino Immigrants” depicts four artists; reflecting their experiences as Latino immigrants in California, their hopes, and visions.

## **Praise for “Portrait of Artists as Latino Immigrants”**

“A fascinating depiction of the often times harrowing transitions immigrant artists make when coming to the United States... Portrait of artists as Latino immigrants is an insightful and elucidating snapshot of their lives and works.”

Jonathan Crosby.

Documentary Filmmaker

“This wonderful “Portrait of Artists as Latino Immigrants” is anything but static pictures of still life. In the smooth rhythm of a pleasant road movie, with great music on the back, a daring, ludic camera and fanciful editing touches, this documentary shows us the development of exile inside -and of insideness in exile- in the lives of a remarkable generation enclosing group of artists. An intelligent, moving reflection on identity beyond borders.”

Ariel Magnus, journalist.

Berlin, Germany

## **Synopsis**

**“Portrait of Artists as Latino Immigrants”** is a Thirty two-minute long documentary that features the stories and art of four Latinos who live throughout California. These artists are in different stages of their immigration process, through their unique stories we will find a tale that is common to every immigrant; through their art, we will be able to recognize different moments in the transition from immigrant to American.

Einar and Jamex de la Torre, María Amparo Escandón, and Victor Cartagena are the artists portrayed in **“Portrait of Artists as Latino Immigrants”**, in their different artistic disciplines, reflect the experience of Latino immigrants in California, their hopes and visions.

Einar and Jamex de la Torre crossed many years ago, when they were still children. Taking the best of each culture, they have crafted their own identity. An identity that allows them to feel “at home” on either side of the border and at the same time being observers and critics of their native and adoptive cultures.

María Amparo Escandón emigrated to LA from Mexico City more than ten years ago. She is a writer and screenwriter, her novels reflect her experience and revisit her native culture from a distance.

Victor Cartagena arrived in San Francisco as an exile from El Salvador when he was a teenager. He wanted it to be temporary escape, until the war in his country was over. The years passed by and one day Victor realized that he belonged to San Francisco as much as he did to El Salvador.

This is a film about Latino immigrants, first time citizens and residents of the United States, that bring a powerful voice of criticism, construction and change to America. A lot like the European immigrants in the beginning of the 20th century, these immigrants are reshaping the face of the country.

## **Directors' Statement**

What is Identity?

We are shaped and formed by our relationships.

The idea of being oneself is a realization.

It is the memory of seeing ourselves for the first time in the mirror.

We are that image in the mirror.

Our surroundings, our language, our name, somehow also appear in the mirror.

We spend our childhood developing these images; this specular vision of ourselves in a mirror.

We created this identity as a reflection of what we are and where we are.

Is it possible to continue forging this identity forever?

What happens to us when the background of the image changes?

These are the stories of four Latino Artists who immigrated to California.

**“Portraits of Artist as Latino Immigrants”** is a documentary about how these artists changed as they adapted to this new culture, and how their identities were forged during this journey of immigration.

## **Directors' Biographies**

Tania Waisberg and Facundo Luján (a.k.a. The Glimmer Ramones) have been working in Argentina's renowned commercials production industry and sharing their life together for the last ten years, and this documentary, "Portrait of Artists as Latino Immigrants," is their their first documentary. Currently, they work at the Academy of Art University and are collaborating on the editing of "Tango Stories", a documentary about Buenos Aires' tango music scene by Julie Queen and Paul Lundahl.



Tania Waisberg has worked as an art assistant, production coordinator and second assistant director in several commercials including worldwide campaigns for Toyota Motor Corporation, Braun / Oral B and Direct TV with directors like Steven Johnson, Charlie Mainardi, Pucho Mentasti and Peluca. Tania has performed key production duties in international commercials shot in Argentina by Cielo Films L.A. and Lowe/Lintas N.Y. In addition, she has worked in Mariano Galperin's second feature film, "Chicos Ricos [Rich Kids]" (1999), as a key art assistant. Tania currently works as a Production Manager for the Cybercampus Video Department at the Academy of Art University.



Facundo Luján has worked in more than ninety commercials in Argentina. Between 2001 and 2002 he has directed three music videos, currently in rotation in Much Music, and MTV Latin America, for Argentinean rockers "Los 7 Delfines" and Karina Van Ron. Among others, Facundo has produced commercials for Procter & Gamble (Saatchi & Saatchi), AOL (WCJ / Young & Rubicam), Toyota Motor Co. of Japan (Dentsu), Budweiser Argentina (Euro/RSCG), and Volkswagen (BBDO) working with international awarded directors Charlie Mainardi and Peluca between 1999 and 2001. Facundo

currently works as an editor for the Cybercampus Video Department at the Academy of Art University.



## **Featured Artists**



### **Profiles**

#### **Victor Cartagena**

Salvadoran-born Victor Cartagena has been making art in the Bay Area for more than a decade. The work that Cartagena produced in the early to mid-1990's battled with memories of the violence in El Salvador and

the pain and separation that he experienced in relocating to the U.S. Cartagena has moved beyond solely articulating the immigrant experience and tackles numerous social issues in the U.S. such as consumer culture, homelessness, and material waste. His artistic palette has also branched out to include sculpture, audio, and video. Using time, space, and seemingly incoherent mechanisms, Victor creates unions between symbols that function at a practical level to inspire the viewer to question cultural, economic, and political topics as they relate to issues of individual identity.

He was a joint recipient of a Rockefeller grant with Octavio Solis and Larry Reed for Shadow light's production of *The Seven Visions of Encarnación* produced at the Brava Theater Center in November 2002. Cartagena received a Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation 2001 Visual Arts Purchase Award, the competitive Art Council award in the year 2000, and 1996, and 2000 Pacific Prints awards. Cartagena's work is in numerous private and institutional collections, including the Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, Hawaii, The Contemporary Art Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, The Oxbow School of Art, Napa, CA & the Collection of Egnatia Odos in Thessaloniki, Greece.

#### **Einar and Jamex de la Torre**

Brothers Einar and Jamex de la Torre were born in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1963 & 1960 respectively. Moved to California in 1972. Presently living and working in both Ensenada, Mexico and San Diego, California.

Jamex started lampworking glass in 1977, attended California State University at Long Beach under scholarship, and received BFA in Sculpture in 1983.

Einar started working with glass in 1980 and attended California State University at Long Beach.

Jamex attended Pilchuck School of Glass under scholarship twice and Einar as teacher's assistant to Therman Statom. Both have owned and operated flame-worked glass figure business from 1981 to 1997. They have work in the collection of the Arizona State University Museum; the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art; The Kanazu Museum in Kanazu, Japan; The Fisher Gallery Museum at USC; Tucson Museum of Art; and The Mexican Fine Art Center Museum in Chicago.

They also have work in the private collections of Cheech Marin, Elton John, Terry McMilan, Sandra Cisneros, and Quincy Troupe.

## María Amparo Escandón



María Amparo is a Mexican writer/screenwriter. She is also co-founder of Acento, an advertising agency for the Hispanic market.

Born and raised in Mexico City, María Amparo now lives in Los Angeles. She writes fluently in both languages. She teaches

writing at UCLA Extension, and her stories have been published in many magazines.

María Amparo's biggest novel is *Santitos* (Esperanza's book of Saints). She wrote the screenplay of the film "Santitos", based on her novel, at the Sundance Screenwriters Lab.

## **Credits**

2005- 32 minutes - Video - Color

### **A Glimmer Ramones Documentary**

#### **Featured Artists:**

Victor Cartagena  
Einar de la Torre  
Jamex de la Torre  
María Amparo Escandón

#### **Directors:**

Facundo Luján - Tania Waisberg

#### **Advisors:**

Jonathan Crosby  
Daniel Dávila  
John Dobson  
Sam Green

#### **Produced by:**

Tania Waisberg

#### **Edited by:**

Facundo Luján

#### **L.A. Crew**

Camera and Sound: Diego Reiwald  
Additional Camera: Yayoi Winfrey  
Local Production: Dena Berillon

#### **Ensenada Crew**

Camera and Sound: Diego Reiwald  
Additional Camera: Dena Berillon

#### **San Francisco Crew**

Camera and Sound: Mark Olesko  
Additional Camera: Hector Espinosa

#### **Sound Mix:**

Steve Romanko

#### **Voice Over Artist:**

Sarita Pockell

#### **Original Songs by**

John Schroeder

#### **Additional Songs by**

Sarita Pockell & John Schroeder  
German Lentino  
Los 7 Delfines

#### **Subtitles Supervisor:**

Naomi Pockell