

Chicano Mural Movement

<http://www.azcentral.com/culturesaz/hispanic/hispart.shtml#art>

Take a drive through Phoenix or Tucson and you're likely to see buildings plastered with large murals. These colorful landmarks are a result of the Chicano Mural Movement that began in the southwestern United States during the 1960s. Murals have become a special expression in Mexican-American neighborhoods, depicting cultural heritage and community ties.

The Chicano Mural Movement stems from Mexican Muralism, which emerged in post-revolutionary Mexico. Mexican Muralism was the first major modern art form that originated outside of Europe. During the 1920s, as Mexico was still reeling from the violent revolution, famous artists like Diego Rivera produced politically charged murals on prominent public buildings. With his art, Rivera hoped to serve a political and social role in society. As did other muralists, Rivera depicted scenes from the 1910 Revolution as well as indigenous life before the Spanish conquest. Other scenes from Mexico's history were commonly painted as well.

Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siquieros, were the most prominent muralist of the revolutionary era. They were known collectively as *los tres grandes*. The Big Three did not limit their art to Mexico. They traveled to the United States during the 1920s and '30s and painted murals in cities like Los Angeles and New York.

During the Chicano movement of the 1960s and '70s, Mexican Muralism found a place in the southwestern United States. Unlike the paintings of the original movement, Mexican Americans incorporated their own unique culture and heritage into the art form. Murals are numerous in southern California and Texas, as well as Arizona.

source: www.azcentral.com (GannettCo)