
Chicana Ways

Conversations with Ten Chicana Writers

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GLORIA ANZALDÚA *Writer, Editor, Critic, and Third-World
Lesbian Women-of-Color Feminist* * 1

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

“To me theory is a way of writing a story, a way tradition says that we should write a story.”

LORNA DEE CERVANTES *Poet, Educator, Political and Feminist
Writer* * 27

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

“Poetry is an exercise of freedom . . . freedom on all fronts.”

DENISE CHÁVEZ *Novelist, Playwright, and Actress* * 47

LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

“My writing is a mirror into my culture.”

LUCHA CORPI *Poet, Novelist, and Educator* * 67

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

“Everything else is work, but poetry is my life, the air that I breathe.”

JAMIE LUJAN *Cofounder of the Latina Theatre Lab and Actress* * 91

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

“Dare to be who you are and celebrate who you are.”

DEMETRIA MARTÍNEZ *Author and Journalist* * 113

TUCSON, ARIZONA

“The message of my work is to always question authority.”

PAT MORA *Poet, Writer, and Educator* * 127

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

“The issue is not so much ethnicity or gender. It is about the way we reach a point of communion as human beings sharing this difficult journey called life.”

CHERRÍE MORAGA *Poet, Playwright, Essayist, and Educator* * 153

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

“My bottom line is always that I want to get better and better and better, which means keeping an open heart and an open mind.”

MARY HELEN PONCE *Author and University Instructor* * 175

HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

“I prefer books to people, . . . [and] I am convinced that words can be used to color the world.”

ESTELA PORTILLO-TRAMBLEY *Playwright, Fiction Writer, Poet, and Actress* * 205

EL PASO, TEXAS

“Writing is still my journey of self-discovery.”

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