

Lowrider Oral History Project: Youth Voices

*A Photo Essay
presentation*



A Photo's Purpose

- ***Member's thoughts***

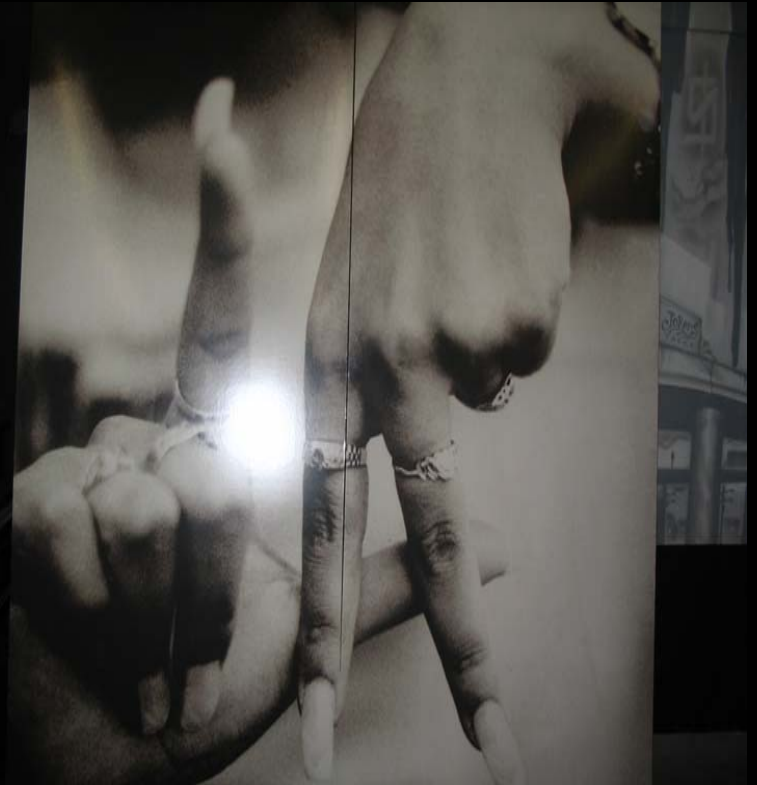
The group members chose to work on the photo essays, because according to what we all agreed on, people have a better understanding of things when there is a visual aid involved.

The Process

1. The pictures were first categorized into important themes:

- a. cars and car clubs*
- b. murals and art*
- c. family*
- d. women in lowriding*
- e. important figures within the lowriding scene*

Photography by: Estevan Oriol



The Process *continued*

Mural and Car by Mr. Cartoon



2. Each student focused on five pictures within a theme and either wrote about them, created poetry and/or a detailed description about the pictures.

Family

La Familia Lowrider By Jeanette Perez,
11th grade

This picture shows many, something beyond great. Something that has already changed their lives. They are part of La Familia Lowrider, also known as The Lowrider Project. During this project we meet twice a week when in school, and once a week when on vacation, to learn more about lowriding history. Being of different ages does not seem to bother us at all; we work peacefully and joyfully as a great, big familia. There are 15 active students in this project, including four sets of siblings. This shows great commitment, not only from different people but from the same households as well. There are many different murals at Garfield High School, yet we felt that this particular mural was more than an ordinary mural. The reason this mural was chosen was because we feel it represents our school spirit and our culture.



She Devil By: Diego Perez, 10th grade

This car is a 1965 Phoenix Riviera. “Mr. Muñoz” is a member of the Lifestyle car club. He purchased his car in 1997; it took him three years to fix his car to make it look like what it does today. The first thing that he put in the car was the motor, which he got from his friend who was going to throw it away at the junkyard. The paint job took two years. Another two years was spent on the interior.



Our Style *By: Sara Moreno, 11th grade*



In the past, car shows have been everywhere, but on March 30, 2008 an important one was held in Pico Rivera. At car shows you see different types of cars, colors, and styles. You also see many people showing off their lowrider arte and culture.

Many lowriders belong to car clubs. Car clubs allow lowriders to be unique and show off their different styles. One car club that I admire is Our Style because they are all good friends who respect each other and love their culture.

Women in Lowriding

**By Valeria Gonzalez,
9th grade**

A women's role in lowriding is very important. Women symbolize many things, such as beauty, fantasies, and inspiration. Today, many Latinas think that they can contribute more to society than only cleaning houses and taking care of kids. Women today are multi-taskers and cannot completely dedicate their time to lowriding even if they wanted to. At car shows, you can often find women who own Lowriders, but most do not officially belong to car clubs. Once a grandmother from Wilmington, CA named Lupe Ramirez, was discovered to be the original owner of a '63 Chevy Impala.



Girls N' Cars

By Violet Bueno,

10th grade

The two most important
Things in a lowriders life!

Nothing will ever come close

Nothing will ever compare...

The beauty of a woman's appearance
The beauty of a car that drives low and
slow

Just lay your eyes on the shiny bright paint,
On chrome that shines real bright
It'll burn holes thought your mind
A piece that's one of a kind.

It's not just a car, it's an automobile
designed to tell a story,

A story that creates an image of a low
rider's past and dear memories
Nothing will ever come close
Nothing will ever compare....

A lowrider and his car, his old lady on the
right side, while they cruise down the
block

Don't be scared, don't be frightened
It's not a cholo behind that wheel

He's a designer who takes pride in his long
tireless nights. Putting together such a
wonderful car that could be enjoyed by
millions world wide.



Cartoon's Dream

By: Ivory Bueno, 9th grade

The significance of this mural in Mr. Cartoon's studio is to demonstrate that his studio is a place to chill, kick back and relax. His shop is a place to go to and feel as if you were in your own home. At his studio you can find other pieces of art. Drawings of normal guys with painted clown faces. His murals have a lot of detail about how the homies unwind.



My Flags By: Maricruz Arauz, 12th grade

**The first and only thing I saw on the simple
black shirt,
The Golden sign
“Lifestyle”.**

**Even before I knew who it was
I knew he was proud.**

**Shirts like these,
Are not passed out for free.
They are portable trophies
They have powerful meanings
Shirts like these**

**Symbolize hard work,
Dedication, persistence,
Loyalty and respect.**

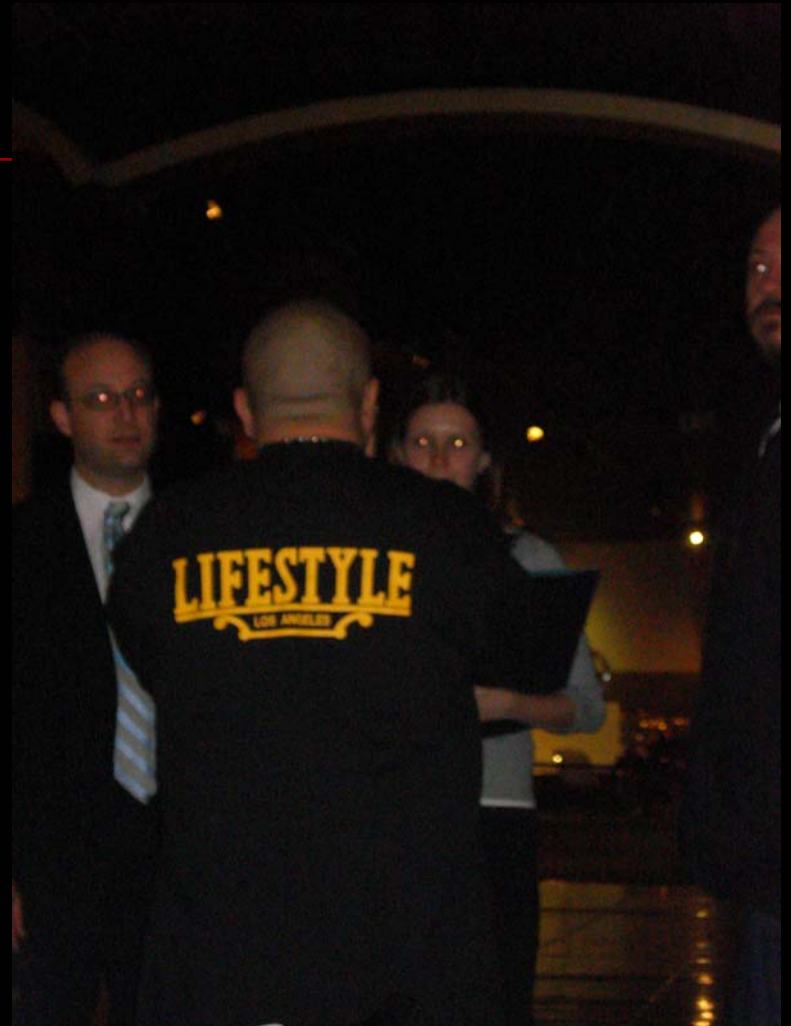
And even more on a deep personal level.

I want to be able one day.

**To wear a shirt like this,
And maybe with my own feminist plaque.**

It's not impossible or even that far fetched

**It just takes
Hard work,
Dedication, persistence,
Loyalty and respect.**



Project

The goal of this project was to create a photo essay that will be archived in the Petersen Museum. It will be used to preserve local history, as well as for future displays and curriculum for teachers.