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The life and legacy of a San Antonio art legend

“He had a really, really strong San Antonio aesthetic, but a universal sensibility ... I feel we’ve lost a great artist. He could take an image of a chocolate box and comment on consumerism in a meaningful way. I was trying to bring him exposure outside of San Antonio; he deserves as much archiving and respect as a New York artist.”

— **Patricia Ruiz Healy, gallerist and art dealer**

“He has been a major pillar of Blue Star from the beginning ... When we were at low ebb about 15 years ago, [Chuck] used his personality, his networking ability, and a lot of hard work to help us stay afloat. We may well have folded like a lot of artist-run spaces of the ’80s did if it weren’t for him.”

— **Bill FitzGibbons, Executive Director at Blue Star Center for Contemporary Art**

“He was just full of life and light and friendship and creativity and love. He’s irreplaceable. He lived life like absolutely nobody else ... He wanted to connect people through his life and his art and his parties, to bring people closer to him and to each other, always.”

— **Rick Liberto, close friend and supporter**

“Saturday night [at Chuck’s wake] demanded energy. It demanded happiness and dancing. Even though I was a wreck, I played Chuck’s favorite dance songs and I didn’t wanna turn it down. I owe everything to him; I feel like his apprentice.”

— **John Mata, close friend, neighbor, artist, and the DJ of Chuck’s wake**

“The McNay recently acquired a largescale Chuck Ramirez photograph, one of just a handful of contemporary photographs to come into the collection ... This new direction will inspire future gifts from area collectors and also bring greater focus to the work of San Antonio’s artists in relation to the larger arena of contemporary art.”

— **Rene Barrilleaux, Curator of art after 1945, the McNay Art Museum**

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