



THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHUCK RAMIREZ

Seven Days: *The Still Lives of Chuck Ramirez* features seven maximalist, large-scale photographs of food by artist Chuck Ramirez, recently acquired by the Carter. Though relatively unknown in North Texas, Ramirez played a central role in San Antonio's contemporary art scene until his untimely death in 2010.

***Seven Days: The Still Lives of
Chuck Ramirez* is on view
July 26, 2025–January 4, 2026.**

Seven Days: The Still Lives of Chuck Ramirez is organized by the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. The exhibition is supported part by Central Market and H-E-B.

Central Market H-E-B

In the words of artist Mark Dion, “Ramirez was an influential and respected figure in the community, and his house functioned as a kind of salon for artists to meet, drink, and debate.” Dion’s description is spot on. Famous for his love of hosting and his extroverted personality, Ramirez often depicted food, drink, and unexpected objects in his art, such as trash bags or suitcases, and developed a huge network of artists and creators.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Ramirez’s career was shaped by his bicultural upbringing as the son of an Anglo American mom and a Mexican American dad. On the one hand, Ramirez grew up immersed in mainstream American culture, watching TV shows like *The Brady Bunch* and enjoying fast food. On the other hand, his paternal grandmother, Lydia, taught him to cook Mexican dishes and to celebrate holidays like Día de los Muertos. Ramirez’s work was also influenced by his time as a graphic designer. Prior to becoming an artist, he developed advertising materials for the local supermarket industry. Much like it had for Andy Warhol, Ramirez’s favorite artist, this experience informed the photographer’s interest in

American consumerism and Texas pop culture. Ramirez’s identity as a gay man and a person living with HIV also permeated his work. This is exemplified by the focus on the ephemerality of life in his 2004 series *Seven Days*, an existential struggle that Ramirez often navigated.

Chuck Ramirez passed away at the age of 48 in a cycling accident. His loss was deeply felt in San Antonio. Today, the artist’s legacy continues to live on through Casa Chuck, a residency program that supports artists, writers, and curators. ■

MARÍA BEATRIZ H. CARRIÓN IS FORMER ASSISTANT CURATOR OF PHOTOGRAPHS

◀ **Chuck Ramirez**
(1962–2010)
Día de los Muertos
2003
Inkjet print
Amon Carter
Museum of
American Art,
Fort Worth, Texas,
P2025.2.3
© Estate of Chuck
Ramirez

▶ **Chuck Ramirez**
(1962–2010)
Rancher Plate
2004
Inkjet print
Amon Carter
Museum of
American Art,
Fort Worth,
Texas, P2025.2.6
© Estate of
Chuck Ramirez

