

Ana Victoria Jiménez

An exhibition on Mexican feminism in protest: **The Photography of Ana Victoria Jiménez**

Ana Victoria Jiménez was born in Mexico City in 1941. After joining the Communist Youth League of Mexico City, she became one of the founding members of the National Union of Mexican Women (*Unión Nacional de Mujeres Mexicanas*) in 1964. Emerging during a period of complex political instability, the Union followed Communist ideologies, arguing that feminism should be a class war rather than a gender war. *Jiménez* would go on to participate in many of the most important feminist movements, collectives, and protests in Mexico City between 1964-90.

Her photographic archive is one of the largest feminist archives in the world. It illuminates and complicates histories of the Mexican Feminist movement. Accordingly, the exhibition is divided into ten themes:

1. Feminism and Communism
2. Feminism and Motherhood
3. Feminism and Fatherhood
4. Clashing Feminisms
5. Miss Universe
6. International Feminism
7. *Las Costureras*
8. Race Day
9. A Wedding with Democracy
10. Abortion

The photography of Ana Victoria Jiménez, 1964-1990, tells the story of Mexican feminism through protest photographs from the 1970s.

Monica Lindsay-Perez (Mst Women's Studies, 2018), curator of the exhibition, came across *Jiménez's* work when studying at Harvard but it was on a trip to Mexico in 2018 that she visited the *Universidad Iberoamericana* and discovered the archive of her photographs. In January this year she had the opportunity to interview Jiménez, now 85.

"She does not consider herself to be a photo-journalist; she felt that the women's protest movement was beautiful. She now spends much of her time cataloguing her work and collecting images and texts relevant to the feminist movement in Mexico. She told me that she felt everyone should document the experiences which they live," said Monica.

Jiménez was one of the founding members of the National Union of Mexican Women in 1964, and went on to attend and photograph many of the most important feminist and working-class protests in Mexico City from 1964-1990, including the Mother's Day protest (1971), the Miss Universe protest (1978) and the abortion protests of the 90s.

This exhibition traces her career and marks the 40th anniversary of the International Dinner Party (1979). For 24 hours, women across the world dined together in international feminist solidarity, sending photographs and telegraphs to American feminist artist, Suzanne Lacy, who pinned red flags on an international feminist map. *Ana Victoria Jiménez* organised the Mexican Dinner Party.

"The work of *Ana Victoria Jiménez* makes up one of the largest feminist archives in the world and this exhibition seeks to expand the focus of feminist exhibitions in the UK," concludes Monica.

A [film](#) by Monica and more [information](#) in Spanish