

C & C Press Artists' Books: *Seven, Two Women & Dos Mujeres*
Poems by Luis J. Rodriguez

Seven, Two Women and *Dos Mujeres* are fine letterpress printed limited edition artists' books containing previously unpublished poetry written by Luis J. Rodriguez. Rodriguez is a well-known, award winning Chicano poet and author who the "His Holiness Award by the Dalai Lama, recognizing him as one of the world's "50 Unsung Heroes of Compassion". This series of books marks the first time that any artist has created an artist's book using poetry written by Luis. Also, this project established C & C Press in 2005, which is co-owned and operated by Matt Cohen and Sher Chyrk Zabaskiewicz.

Based on the Aztec heritage of the poet, imagery and original drawings were letterpress printed using linoleum cuts and photopolymer plates. The text was handset using 11 point American Garamond and letterpress printed on Mohawk Superfine using a Vandercook 219 proofing press. *Two Women* and *Dos Mujeres* were hand-bound in the false accordion structure. We chose the false accordion because, as the reader views one page, the next page in the sequence has already started to turn. Thus, the viewer cannot read what is on the first page, without first being aware of the next page's presence. This aligns conceptually with the idea that the reader must equally consider both the influences of Rodriguez's mother and his wife, and cannot look at one without considering the other, and vice versa.

In contrast to the perpetual page motion of the false accordion structure in *Two Women* and *Dos Mujeres*, the wire-edge binding in *Seven* allows each page to lie motionless and completely flat. We chose this binding because this action allows the viewer the opportunity to pause, to reflect, and then to understand the unique power and importance of each of the "seven" poems. The cover panels, which were printed with an etching press, are reproductions of the poet's handwritten poems. The handmade paper end-sheets were created from the fabric of the poet's t-shirts.

SEVEN: Book Size: 10" x 6" x 1"

TWO WOMEN: Book Size: 9.375" x 6.75" x 0.375"

DOS MUJERES: Book Size: 9.375" x 6.75" x 0.375"

A Limited Edition of 50 copies each.

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