

## “NICHU/CAJITA” PROJECT - CREATING SACRED SPACE

The **NICHU/CAJITA** is a Sacred Space you create and dedicate to someone or something. For this project the concept of Sacred Space is very broad. **PLEASE ALLOW YOURSELF ENOUGH TIME TO FOCUS AND EXPERIMENT. SELECT MATERIALS CAREFULLY** and do your best! This Sacred Space-Nicho Project is challenging you to express your ideas creatively. I hope you enjoy the process, I look forward to seeing your amazing NICHOS!

### NICHU/CAJITA

Select a box or container, be creative in your selection. Look for any interesting container that you think would make a good nicho, you can also build your own nicho. The box-container can be wood - which is good to paint on, nail on etc., metal, a basket or other durable and sturdy materials – **no cardboard or plastic shoe boxes**. You don't have to spend a lot of money on your nicho-box, first look at home or in the garage, or go to the SEGUNDA/SECOND HAND STORES, THRIFT STORES, SALVATION ARMY, GOOD WILL, where you can find things inexpensively, or also MICHAEL'S CRAFT STORES or BIG LOTS usually have a variety of boxes to choose from. The box can have a door or lid or one or more compartments or sections. Sometimes the kind of box you select will inspire some ideas in the way you decorate the inside and the outside. Examples : OLD JEWELRY BOXES, SEWING BOXES, BREAD BOX, BASKETS, OLD SUIT CASE OR MAKE-UP CASE, or even a METAL TOOLBOX that you can spray paint, anything you find interesting that meets the criteria: Durable and Sturdy. Whatever box-container you pick make sure you can glue on it, paint it, or (if you need to) nail on it, etc. REMEMBER THAT YOU NEED TO WORK ON BOTH THE INSIDE AND THE OUTSIDE OF THE BOX. **SIZE: The nicho/cajita should be larger than a shoe box, nothing too small, a medium size or larger.**

### THEME

Your theme should be related to the content/concepts from our class readings and/or topics discussed in our class. **For example:** The theme can be a historical event, such as the ancient Olmecs, the Aztecs, or the Maya, MesoAmerican Goddesses/Gods, the Virgen de Guadalupe, the Casta paintings, the Mexican Revolution, the Zoot Suit Riots, the East LA Walk-Outs, Cesar Chavez or Dolores Huerta, the Farm Workers, Chicana/o Art, immigration, identity, border crossing, globalization, or other topics such as nature, ecology, global warming, gender issues, the Dream Act/Dreamers, Chicana feminism, etc. Almost anything that we have discussed in class and readings. **In the context and related /connected to class content, you can also choose to do your nicho about :** yourself – autobiography/self-portrait or a specific event in your life, or a dedication to a family member or friend, or perhaps someone else you admire – a popular personality or a person of importance to you. The NICHU can also be about a world invent/current issue that is cultural or political. Other possible themes can be music, art, etc., **however, again remember whatever you choose you must in some way connect all themes to class content/concepts.**

## **CONCEPT**

**Also include a concept with your theme that we have discussed in class such as :** DUALITY, TRANSFORMATION, NEPANTLA, DE-COLONIZATION, RASQUACHISMO, SELF-DETERMINATION, CULTURAL DEMOCRACY, RECIPROCITY (AS IN MUTUAL RESPECT FOR NATURE, the RELATIONSHIP OF GIVE AND TAKE), INTERSECTIONS OF CULTURE(S), etc.

## **ELEMENTS – YOU MUST INCLUDE:**

**TWO DIMENSIONAL OBJECTS:** A choice or combination of photos, drawings, painting, symbols, stenciling, etc. (Remember to choose your photos selectively, this is not a collage).

**THREE DIMENSIONAL OBJECTS:** Small objects that are related to your idea or theme. The things that you actually place inside of the nicho.

**COLOR:** Think about the colors you want to use. This is a strong part of your design. Do you want the colors to communicate a particular mood, idea or feeling? Are the colors you use symbolic of something? For example red and black, the farmworker's flag, etc. What mood or ambiente-atmosphere do you want your colors to communicate related to your theme? If you are doing something on nature or the beach/water then there will most likely be lots of blues and greens.

**TEXT:** Meaning you include the written word in some form. The text/written word should be integrated into your design. Examples: a word, a phrase, a quote, a line(s) from a poem or lyrics from a song, your own thoughts, an excerpt from a diary or letter, a newspaper headline, almost anything - but integrate the writing in your box in an interesting way.

**REPETITION:** Include the use of repetition in your NICHO/BOX, For example: The repetition of certain colors, symbols, patterns, objects, images or text (words). Repetition gives a sense of emphasis and your result can be a very strong statement.

**How can you make all of the components work together?**

**HAND IN A ONE PAGE (OR MORE) TYPED DESCRIPTION OF YOUR NICHO AND EXPLAIN THE SYMBOLS, THEMES, CONCEPTS AND YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE CREATIVE PROCESS. ALSO INCLUDE THE TEXT YOU USED IN YOUR NICHO, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS A POEM, SONG LYRIC, ETC.**