La Causa Política: A Chicano Politics Reader

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Yet "political" in this context is a slippery term. Despite the presence of some good artists, much of the work settles for looking threatening or sexy or outrageous only in a general, theatrical sort of way, as if politics were a matter of attitude rather than argument, of style rather than logic. In part, this is just a liability of a one-note group show. The exhibition begins at the time of the alliance of Chicano farm workers and urban laborers in the early 60's. Referred to as El Movimiento or La Causa, the alliance joined forces with the Vietnam antiwar movement later in the decade. Like other civil rights groups of the time, it grew from conflict, was grass roots in origin, and sought justice for people shut out from the socioeconomic mainstream.