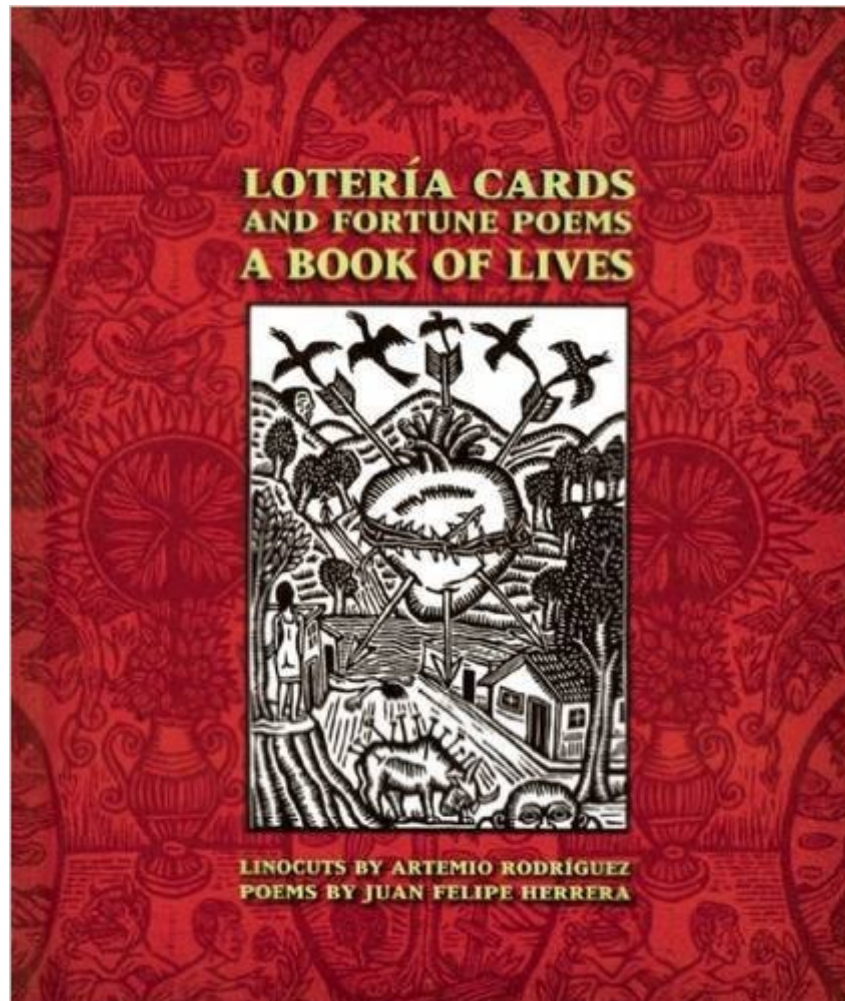


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# Lotería Cards And Fortune Poems: A Book Of Lives



## Synopsis

The gorgeous black and white line art inside this hefty little book instantly caught my eye. These linocut drawings were not the regular loterÃ- a images. They were modern adaptations, made with painstaking detail (think of a turn-of-the-millennium, wired Posada) and showing a distinctive sense of humor and pathos. The poetry, commissioned especially for the drawings, also showed a fresh and modern take on the icons of Mexicanismo and Chicanismo."

â "Frontera Magazine

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A book about innovation and tradition" is how Rupert Garcia describes this book in the useful introduction. I recommend that this is read first, because it helps one to understand the history of Loteria Cards in Mexico and the traditional iconography associated with them. They are actually the fusion of two games, Patolli a game of chance the Aztecs played, and Loteria a European Version of Bingo. In the game the name of the Loteria card is called out rather than the number. It may be a type person, an element or feature of nature, or something else, and it is often accompanied by a phrase or poem by the caller to further identify the picture on the card. This is origin of the cards, a fusion like so many things in Mexico, has been put into a contemporary setting in this book. Artemio Rodriguez uses a mixture of traditional iconography and modern images to produce beautiful Linocuts for the images of the Loteria Cards. They look both traditional Mexican and old (they remind me of woodcuts by Dürer), yet contemporary and modern at the same time. Each is distinct and unique. The poems by Juan Felipe Herrera go very well with the Linocuts, and they too are a mixture of traditional Mexican, Chicano and modern subject-matter. They show that beliefs, feelings, and emotions carry over in time, space, language and culture. Some remain the same, while others change. The mix they create is in a constant state of metamorphosis, becoming undefinable, yet staying distinct. The presentation of the book is beautiful, the cover, binding, paper, and printing are all well-done. Each page has a Loteria Card and a poem that accompanies it. I really recommend this book. It is a thoughtful and beautiful present to give to someone who appreciates the combination of tradition, modernism, art, poetry...

I bought this book last year to give to a friend and after leafing through it, decided I couldn't part with it. Rodriguez's prints are rich, beautiful, terrifying -- but it is Herrera's words I fell in love with. Each poem is its own mystery. These are perfect pieces, perfectly married to their accompanying images, and make one incredible poetic whole.

This is a brilliant collaboration between Herrera and Rodriguez. Herrera's poems, as always, are thought provoking and innovative, linguistically and intellectually, and they are a perfect match for Rodriguez's linocuts, which are also innovative and thought provoking. This is a book that you'll want to read over and over again for years to come. WOW!

My university had Mr. Herrera here for its annual writer's conference, and I picked this book out to read before the events, as I loved the strange, even psychedelic art it contained, which itself is worth the price of the book. The poetry is even stranger. Describing the book as an experiment, Mr.

Herrera goes off in a thousand Ginsberg-esque directions, some long, some only five or six lines. Just as Rodriguez twisted traditional Lotaria images with his art, Herrera twisted traditional Lotaria descriptions. It doesn't hurt that Mr. Herrera himself turned out to be down to earth, encouraging, and just plain sweet! Overall, if you like art, Beat poetry, or Mexican-American literature, pick this book up!

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