

# TransFigures

## Poster Project



## Raquel Gutiérrez

Literary and Performance Artist.  
Queer. Brown. Bulldagger.

"I'm a writer. I'm a performer. I work in the arts. I write poems. I love art. I love my family. I love my girlfriend. I love my friends. And I really love all the communities I am a part of," says **Raquel Gutiérrez**.

She cut her teeth on Los Angeles performance art when she interned and house managed at Highways Performance Space in 2000. Raquel is a performance writer, playwright, and cultural organizer, studied in university settings and performed in a variety of locations, like the Salvadoran countryside, cabarets, galleries, San Antonio, more universities, Pico-Union and Macarthur Park. In 2001, Gutiérrez was one of the co-founding members of the performance ensemble *Butchlalis de Panochtitlan (BdP)*, a community-based and activist-minded group aimed at creating a visual vernacular around queer Latinidad in Los Angeles.

"I started out doing performances with friends," says Raquel. "It was fun, but mostly it felt necessary to tell the stories of our existence—brown-bodied butches and the gendered anarchy and the desires that pushed us to the edge. I want to create more language and vernaculars that help us heal, help us create a more pronounced sense of belonging, and build community."

"Sometimes I present about growing up a child of immigrants in Southeast Los Angeles and the stories I tell are always true. If you fall, you get up. People are going to look at you funny, but they are just robbing themselves of an opportunity to live outside the box a boring society might prescribe them. If you get to a point, though, where you realize the journey was an arduous one, you kill a few demons, live with a few at a distance and you would not change a thing... then that is what matters and the trouble I went to so I could be the truest version of myself was all worth it."

TRANSFIGURES POSTER PROJECT



LGBT  
Resource Center



The TransFigures Poster Project was launched in 2012 by the LGBT Resource Center at the University of California, Riverside. For more information about the project, for additional trans\* resources or to download PDF posters for educational use, please visit [out.ucr.edu](http://out.ucr.edu) or [architect.lgbtcampus.org](http://architect.lgbtcampus.org).