

CARLOS MONSIVÁIS AS TESTIMONIALIST



Carlos Monsiváis sent this perceptive, poignant piece in response to a call for testimonios aiming to document the myriad transborder-wise ripple effects of post-September 11, 2001 times. With his customary graciousness, Monsiváis readily responded by sending his testimonio through cyberspace, adding a note that he thought this project was a valuable documenting effort in which he was happy to participate.

Monsiváis’s primary intellectual concern and focus was Mexico, laying bare its fragilities and strengths, its inner struggles and relationships beyond its borders, including the ongoing grating of the Mexico-U.S. border, that “herida abierta” (open wound), as Chicana Gloria Anzaldúa has termed it, opening up in hurt far beyond the geopolitical drawn line. Monsiváis was in a sense a testimonial writer, forever documenting the times in Mexico, its political and social ailments, its pain and, yes, also its laughter. His characteristic sense of humor permeated his chronicles of a Mexico as it was becoming, up into our present.

This piece brings to the forefront Monsiváis’s acute feeling for how a single event in the U.S —he identifies it as a tragedy, without a doubt— had myriad repercussions, ones that he frames here to illustrate —through gross facts as well as slippery nuances— how September 11, 2001 became a statement of what globalization deeply signifies for Mexico. May his words become a noble legacy for us and a true tribute to him. He shall be missed by many.

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