

Title: *Magia y Tradición*

Photographer: Felicia 'Fe' Montes

Description: Magic and tradition are key to the memory, methodology, and movement of the celebration of Day of the Dead. It is a day of culture, community, and collective consciousness. The ultimate example of pedagogies of creative justice bringing prayer, poetry, performance, protest, and public art together. This photo, taken at Mexico City's *Día de los Muertos* parade, features a Mexican girl carrying her culture in her clothing - draping her body in dance and Day of the Dead traditions. The girl looks straight into the camera and stands next to a huge replica of a Mexican doll in similar clothing. She is an ethnic studies classroom in the flesh teaching about color and culture, prayer and performance, style and spirituality...*magia y tradición*.

Biography:

Felicia 'Fe' Montes (M.A./M.F.A.) is a Xicana Indigenous holistic activist, femcee, designer, poet, professor, public scholar, and practitioner of the healing arts from East Los Angeles. She is the co-founder and director of Mujeres de Maiz, In Lak Ech, Botanica del Barrio and El MERCADO y Mas and an assistant professor in Chicana/Latinx arts and social practice at Cal State University Long Beach. She has published in the books *Fleshing the Spirit*, *Voices from the Ancestors*, and *MeXicana Fashions* and is the co-editor of the book *Mujeres de Maiz en Movimiento: Spiritual Artivism, Healing Justice and Feminist Praxis* (University of Arizona Press, 2024) www.FeliciaMontes.com

