

PRABA PILAR



**MANIFESTO || published in 1999**

**WARNING:** This is not a self-indulgent exercise comparing the conveniences/inconveniences of digital technology for the PC user. This is not an encounter with technocratic fantasies, utopian visions nor renderings of maleficent technological dystopia. No mámes.

**ATTENTION:** This is a tactical assault on the cryptoreligious myths accompanying technological invention. It is a counteroffensive against the mili-corp monoculture that evolves and promotes Information Technology to stifle critical voices. ¡Eso!

**BEWARE:** We are not tech-optimists, digi-pushers, nor cyber-fanáticos. We are not neo-Luddites or Chicano hippies. We are criticones, techno-informants of the 'other' kind. We are . . . **LOS CYBRIDS: La Raza Techno-Crítica.**

**Los Cybrids: La Raza Techno-Critica** is a junta of three poly-ethnic cultural diggers of the Latino sort dedicated to the critique of cyber-cultural negotiation via tecno-artístico activity. **Los**

**Cybrids** ascribe to the increasingly widening liminal spaces of culture, hybridity and decentered identities reinforced by the new electronic technologies. As "Latino" artists working with digital technologies, we represent a demographic disproportionately underrepresented in the frenzied race to be connected. Our work employs performance, burla and high-tech art to undermine the passive acceptance and unacknowledged overarching social, cultural and environmental consequences of Information Technologies (IT).

The proliferation of IT through the mind-spinning matrix of dot-coms, 'e-business,' portals, virtual communities, the global village, and e-life intensifies the power structure of the global capitalist military complex. The marriage between world-governmental agencies, transnational corporations and global military forces dominates and controls the proliferation of IT for short-term profits. The celebrated freedom to access limitless information masks the meta-surveillance system of the Global Information Infrastructure.

**Los Cybrids** read "cyberspace" as a cultural artifact and archetype for access/desire, body/space, culture/globalization, and surveillance/ freedom. We resist the idea that cyberspace provides a "level playing field" on which cultural difference is immaterial. Underlying notions of cyberspace include the idea that all people can or should gain access to "white male middle-class culture." The promoters of the "Digital Divide" feed into this inequity by creating an imperative for 'marginalized' people in and outside of the US to ascribe to and strive for access to the white male middle-class ideology of a cultural geography without difference, friction-free capitalism and unfettered cultural harmony. Los Cybrids obliterate this false ideal of equal-access-to-all, suggesting that power inequalities are perpetuated, not solved, in the new geography of cyberspace.

**Los Cybrids** incite our extended communities to a radical diálogo by challenging them to digital duels and virtual violence around stereotypical renderings of culture, economics, surveillance and human forms. It is from the center of the Silicon Empire that **Los Cybrids** upload Ideological Bacteria (IB) on the information laden messianic chants of the new technology gods! **Los Cybrids**

launch through the world this incendiary manifesto of ours, because we want to free this land from the gangrene of e-CEO's, e-business, and e-Gates. For too long have Latinos, communities of color and, artists been dealers in second-hand software and tech manufacturing. They need to be freed from the numberless "virtual", non-profit do-gooders, and corporate whores that cover them like so many second hand ponchos. To those who claim that every effort must be made to extend Internet access, **Los Cybrids** say ERROR! It is the business world's purpose to facilitate, promote and enhance the cyber-experience, it is our purpose to subvert it. Orale, adelante.

YOUTUBE LINKED IN