

## Cheech Marin Condensed Bio (370 words)

Primarily known as an actor, director, and performer, Cheech Marin has developed the finest private collection of Chicano art in this country. Much of it formed the core of his traveling exhibition *Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge*, which broke attendance records during its groundbreaking 15-city tour during 2001-2007 to major art museums across the United States. He states, "Chicano art is American art. My goal is to bring the term 'Chicano' to the forefront of the art world." This focus is what led to his touring exhibitions, *The Chicano Collection/La Colección Chicana: Fine Art Prints by Modern Multiples*, and *Papel Chicano: Works on Paper from the Collection of Cheech Marin*. Selections from his collection can also be seen in his *Los Angelenos/Chicano Painters of L.A.*, an exhibition on view at LACMA in Los Angeles, now through November 2, 2008.

A third-generation Mexican American, Cheech has received numerous awards for his work on behalf of Latinos, including the 2000 Creative Achievement Award from the Imagen Foundation and the 1999 ALMA Community Service Award from the National Council of La Raza and Kraft Foods. In 2007, he received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts for his contributions to the creative arts from Otis College of Art & Design in Los Angeles, and received the inaugural Legacy Award for Arts Advocacy from the Smithsonian Latino Center. He serves on the boards of the Smithsonian Latino Center and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

As an actor, Cheech is familiar to many as one-half of the hilarious duo Cheech and Chong; together, they made eight feature films. He has since appeared in more than 20 films, including *Spy Kids*, *Tin Cup*, and *Once Upon A Time In Mexico*. His television credits include co-starring with Don Johnson in the popular CBS drama, *Nash Bridges*, a recurring role on the hit series *Lost*, and a guest appearance on *Grey's Anatomy*. His latest films include *The Perfect Game* (Lionsgate Entertainment); *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* and *Race to Witch Mountain* (Walt Disney Pictures); and *The Miracle of Dommatina* (Hallmark Channel). In addition, in 2005, Cheech directed the Broadway production of *Latinologies*, a collection of comedic and poignant monologues revealing the Latino experience in America.

To learn more, visit [www.CheechMarinOnline.com](http://www.CheechMarinOnline.com).