

The Detroit Poets: Cultural Pride and Social Condition

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ABSTRACT

In this working paper Dr. Ruiz analyzes previously published selections of poetry written by Chicano and Puerto Rican poets from Detroit in the 1980's. The two major themes expressed and analyzed in this selection reflect two central concerns of the Latino community of this city. The first theme is that of retaining pride in their cultural heritage in spite of the pressures exerted by the dominant, hegemonic culture and society. The second theme deals with the social conditions and problems endured by Detroit's predominantly working class Latinos in their struggle for existence. The author is grateful to the poets and Casa de Unida for their kind permission to reproduce the poems included herein.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Ruiz is an associate professor of Spanish Literature in the Department of Foreign Languages at Wayne State University. A native of New Mexico, Dr. Ruiz has degrees from Kent State University, the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico. He has recently published his first novel, *Encuentro con Estanislao Eckermann*.