

Sponsors

Department of Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies
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Office of Multicultural Affairs
The University of Alabama Press
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c c b m d t d i u n p p e c f
g y n ó i c a l i m i s a a l
o c d p s z t l d d h x m u a
g e c e c d m m e d s i k í o
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k g w b i e f z g i n a a m l
c c r y m d c r a t r y v s a
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m ó s t ó o z v w l y g y l f
n y u e n j c o i r b e y i o
i a r g e n t i n a w t b b q

alabama
argentina
asimilación
bilinguismo
derechos
discriminación
familia
fotografía
segregación

Reviews

"A vivid, insightful, and moving illustrated graphic memoir..." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Lila Quintero Weaver's understated and elegant memoir of growing up in the south during the upheaval and fast-moving changes of the Civil Rights era, told in *Darkroom*, is stunning, not only for its beautifully rendered imagery but also for its heartfelt text. Weaver wisely lets the story unfold slowly and without great fanfare, focusing instead on the human lives inside it." —*Graphic Novel Reporter*

IN AMERICA IN 1961, RETURNED TO ARGENTINA AT THE AGE OF THREE, AND SPENT SEVEN CRITICAL YEARS THERE.



Darkroom: An Exhibition

Carole Weinstein
International Center
March 2 – June 10



Darkroom: *A Memoir in Black and White*

Description of *Darkroom*

"*Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White*" (2012, UA Press) is a graphic novel about an emotional personal story about childhood, race, and identity in the southern United States during a time of personal and societal struggle. The author, Lila Quintero Weaver, uses stunning illustrations to give life to her memories.

In 1961 when Lila was five years old, she and her family migrated from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Marion, Alabama. As educated, middle-class Latino immigrants in a region defined by segregation, the Quinteros were in a privileged position to see the racially charged culture they lived in. Lila and her family witnessed firsthand important moments in the Civil Rights Movement. *Darkroom* also tells Lila's personal story: defining her identity as a Latin girl in the Jim Crow South and struggling to understand the horrors of race relations in her new country. Throughout her youth, Lila had struggled to find her place both within society and against the discrimination around her. Her story explores the connection between immigration, race, and identity.

Biography of the Author

Lila Quintero Weaver is the author and illustrator of her memoir, *Darkroom*. She was born in Buenos Aires but, obviously, according to her story she grew up in Alabama, where she obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama. She has always been interested in the visual arts and social justice, so she combined the two to bring us her story, which is now taught in high school and college classes everywhere. She lives with her husband in Alabama, and together they have three children.

Darkroom is her first book. It was named a finalist in the Small Press Expo's Ignatz 2012 award for "Promising New Talent" and listed in Notable Books for a Global Society by the Children's Literature & Reading Special.



The Project

Our class, LAIS 309 Spanish Writing Workshop, aims to use the novel, *Darkroom*, to further explain and describe the importance of bilingualism and integration in our communities today. The novel, which succeeds in portraying a moving personal story about childhood, race, and identity, is a great source in helping us to show this importance. Through creative and meaningful drawings, the author catches the attention of readers and describes her life of trying to understand a foreign country during a time of horrible race relations. Because of this struggle against discrimination we see in the novel, we feel it is necessary to attempt in bringing together different communities in our society in order to face the inequalities and segregation that still exists today.

Through our exhibition, we want to impact all people, regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, or race. We, as a class, want to succeed in integrating all communities through the impactful novel, *Darkroom*. We aim to do this through creating multiple panels that bring to light the numerous themes that the novel presents. For the exhibition, groups that consist of two students each were assigned a particular theme in the novel and took the time and energy to extract powerful illustrations and quotes that further described their theme. We hope that offering illustrations as well as words will succeed in having a more powerful impact on those who attend the exhibition.

With the panels presented in both English and Spanish, we hope we will accomplish portraying the importance of bilingualism in our present society. Also, the support for the exhibition by multiple sponsors that range in mission and size already gives us insight into the importance of bilingualism as well as integration.

Text and design by Hannah O'Rourke and Kaytlin Goodfellow

The Groups

Themes: Alysia Joyce and Melvin Sánchez
Space and Time: Jack Drake and Mackenzie Cox
Point of View and Structure: Alex Carroll and Bear Gardner
Characters: Matt Goniprow,, Marisa Ruskan, and Natalie Pearson
Role of Photography: Avery Wasson, Peyton Carter, and Sasha Ongley
Introduction: Bailey Cristian and Jesse Conway
Exhibition's Program: Hannah O'Rourke and Kaytlin Goodfellow

LAIS309 – Spanish Writing Workshop
Spring Semester 2017
Dr. Karina Elizabeth Vázquez
Department of Latin American, Latino & Iberian Studies

