

## Favianna Rodriguez: Art for Social Change

Favianna Rodriguez is a name you should know. Born in Oakland, California, in 1978, she is an artist and activist who uses her work to fight for social justice. Her art tackles tough issues like immigration, climate change, and economic inequality. More than that, Favianna's work is a call to action, inspiring people to think and act differently about the world around them.



Growing up in Oakland, Favianna was surrounded by the vibrant culture of her community, but she also saw the struggles. Her parents, who emigrated from Peru, worked hard to provide a better life. They wanted Favianna to pursue a stable career in medicine or engineering. But Favianna had other plans.

From a young age, Favianna loved art. She won contests and even appeared on TV to showcase her talent. Her passion for art grew stronger when she took a printmaking class taught by East Oakland Chicano artists who were also activists. This experience ignited her desire to use art as a tool for social change.

High school was a turning point for Favianna. Her art began to reflect her political beliefs, using bold colors and powerful messages to draw attention to injustice. One of her famous projects, "Migration is Beautiful," uses the monarch butterfly to symbolize the beauty and right of migration.

Today, Favianna continues to inspire through her art and activism. She runs the Center for Cultural Power, which supports artists working for social change. Her work is a testament to the power of art to transform society, making her a true hero for our time.