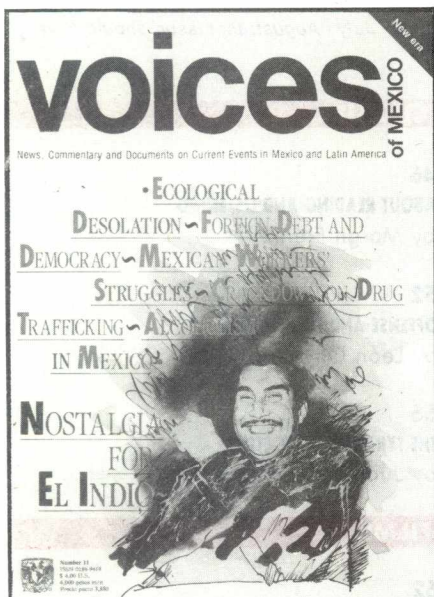


# THIS ISSUE



Cover: Anel García Domínguez

In this issue of *Voices* we deal once more with the essential problems affecting us as a nation: economic solvency, sovereignty and the difficult transition towards a more participative and democratic society — themes discussed constantly and almost obsessively by Mexicans in recent years, and about which the last word has not yet been said.

These analyses - which constitute real knots in the Mexican social texture, are complemented by two articles on the dramas of ecological deterioration and the increasing rate of alcoholism in Mexico. These are public health problems which are demanding prompt and far reaching solutions.

In the cultural section there is an important essay on the relationship between reading and listening, referring to the ancient classical period and to the Middle Ages - a topic that has not been much studied by specialists up to the present.

We complete the section with a philosophical essay on the motives behind intolerance, with regard to the Satanic Verses written by Salman Rushdie (which, by the way, might be useful in confronting the many conflicts that Mexico and the United States, as neighbors, have to face), and with two homages to figures of prime importance in Mexican culture: the poet Salvador Novo and the film maker Emilio *El Indio* Fernández.

**Mariclaire Acosta**