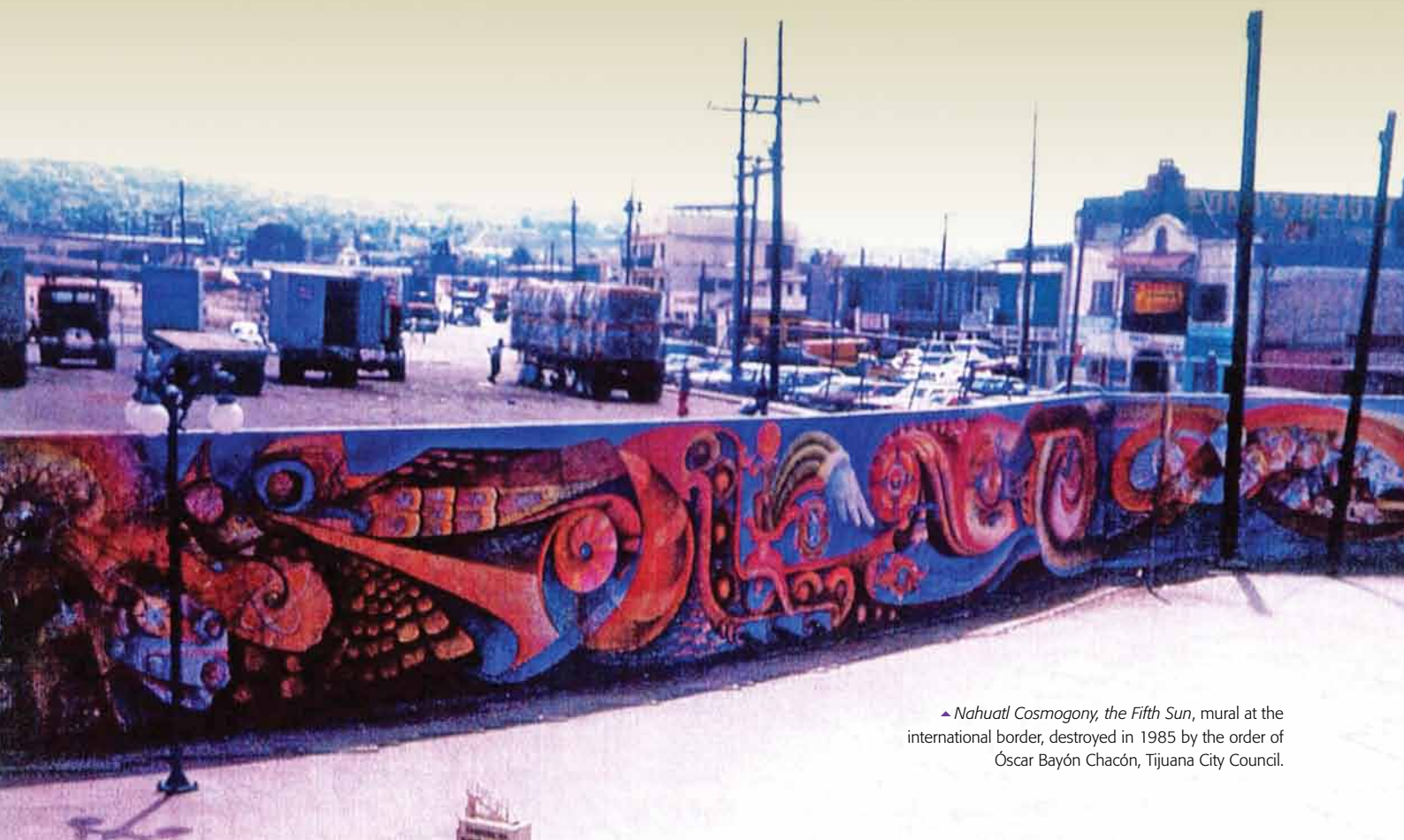


# THE BORDER

## Art Brings Together what Fences Divide

**M**exico and the United States are separate, divided, in places, by river water, in others by the rocks that higher and higher fences are built on. However, along that scar called a border is erected a diverse artistic geography of great expressive force that we have tried to reflect here, through the thinking and pictorial work by artists who develop their art on both sides of "the Line."

The art produced on the western end of the border, like Marcos Ramírez's multidimensional installations, would be unintelligible without the uniqueness of a city like Tijuana, which is constantly reformulating its significance and is in permanent communication with the neighbors on the other side of the fence, or without the legacy of Benjamín Serrano, the first artist born in Tijuana toward the end of the 1930s whose art found expression in the United States and became an axis for bi-national dialogue. To the east, the work of artists like Rigoberto A. González from Brownsville and Matamoros is enriched through a sincere, critical dialogue, transcending stereotypes, but that does not hesitate to make a statement against criminal violence or the suffering and injustice experienced in the winding path from one side to the other.



▲ *Nahuatl Cosmogony, the Fifth Sun*, mural at the international border, destroyed in 1985 by the order of Óscar Bayón Chacón, Tijuana City Council.



▲ Self-portrait, 87 x 67 cm, 1961 (oil on canvas). Serrano Banuet Family Collection.