

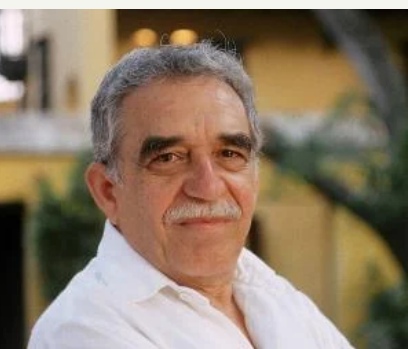
Notable Hispanic Figures In: Literature

Sandra Cisneros



Best known for her first novel 'The House on Mango Street' in which a young Latina woman comes of age in Chicago. She is acknowledged as a pioneer in her literary field, as she is the first female Mexican-American writer to have her work published by a mainstream publisher. Her books have been translated into over a dozen languages. When it came to novel writing, she worked on the formation of the Chicana identity, exploring the challenges of being caught between Mexican and Anglo-American cultures, facing the misogynist attitude present in both these cultures, and poverty. While writing Cisneros alternates between first person, third person, and stream-of-consciousness narrative modes, and ranges from brief impressionistic vignettes to longer event-driven stories, and from highly poetic language to brutally frank language.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez



Colombian novelist counted among the greatest writers of the 20th century. Known affectionately as Gabo throughout Latin America, he was much beloved to his fans who loved his literary style of effortlessly blending magical, supernatural elements with the natural and normal surroundings, a style known as "Magic Realism" which he helped popularize. His skill as a writer lay in the fact that his works not only appealed to the common readers, but also received much critical acclaim and praise from literary critics. While working as a correspondent in Paris, he read a great deal of American literature and its French translations, and this laid the foundation for his future literary career. Even though best known for his mastery over magic realism, he was also equally skilled at writing works of non-fiction, as his initial writings were heavily imbued with realistic themes. He received several international awards for his invaluable contribution to literature including the 1972 Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda



19th-century Cuban-born Spanish writer praised for her literary works. She wrote poems, autobiographies, novels and plays. During the 1840s and 1850s was when she was most famous for her writings. She inspired men and women alike with her stories of love, feminism, and a changing world. Her poetry consists of styles in Hispanic poetry from late neoclassicism through romanticism. Her works are influenced by some of the major French, English, Spanish, and Latin American poets. Her poems reflects her life experiences including her rebellious attitude and independence in a male-dominated society (regarding herself as a woman writer); sense of loneliness and exile from her Cuba (regarding her love for Cuba); and melancholy and depression (regarding her heartbroken affairs). Her poetry surrounds the themes of Cuba, love, poetry itself, neoclassical concepts, historical references, religion, philosophical meditations, personal and public occasions, and poetic portraits. The most controversial and the first novel she wrote, Sab, was published in 1841. This novel can be compared to Uncle Tom's Cabin in that both novels are literary protests against the practice of slavery.

Octavio Paz



Nobel Prize winning Mexican poet, essayist and a diplomat born in the middle of the Civil War that raged through the country in the early twentieth century. As his father was a member of a revolutionary group, young Octavio spent his early childhood under the care of his grandfather, also a noted writer. The elder Paz kept an extensive library and Octavio was introduced to both Mexican and European literature through these books while he was still a child. He began writing at the age of eight and had his first book of poems published at nineteen. Later he joined Mexican diplomatic service and it was during his stint as Ambassador to India that he had the opportunity to study Hindu and Buddhist philosophies which influenced his later writings. 'Piedra de Sol' (Sunstone), published in 1957, is one among Paz's highly appreciated poems. The work is based on circular Aztec calendar and has 584 lines corresponding to its 584 days. In 1990, Octavio Paz Lozano received the Nobel Prize in Literature "for impassioned writing with wide horizons, characterized by sensuous intelligence and humanistic integrity."

Notable Hispanic Figures In: Science

Mario Molina



Mario Molina is a Mexican scientist and chemist. In 1995, he won a Nobel Prize for his research on how man-made compounds affect the ozone layer. He became interested in science as a young boy and created a chemistry lab in the bathroom. In 1968, he moved to the United States and earned an advanced degree in physical chemistry from UC Berkeley. He then taught at MIT and UC San Diego. Mario Molina received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama in 2013. His contributions changed the course of history as he raised awareness on how important it is for us to protect the ozone layer.

Famous quote: "The planet is just too small for these developing countries to repeat the economic growth in the same way that the rich countries have done it in the past. We don't have enough natural resources, we don't have enough atmosphere. Clearly, something has to change."

Dr. Helen Rodriguez Trías



Dr. Helen Rodriguez Trías was born in Puerto Rico but moved to New York City when she was young. She became the first Latina president of the American Health Association in 1993. She experienced bias for being Latina and was placed in a class for academically challenged students because of it. Even though she spoke English well and got good grades, they still thought it was a handicap to be Hispanic. Dr. Rodriguez Trías got her medical degree from the Universidad de Puerto Rico with high honors. She founded the first center for newborns in Puerto Rico and served as Director of Pediatrics at Lincoln Hospital in New York. Dr. Trías also led the New York City Department of Health Mental Hygiene and brought national attention to the devastation caused by AIDS and HIV.

Famous quote: "I hope I'll see in my lifetime a growing realization that we are one world."

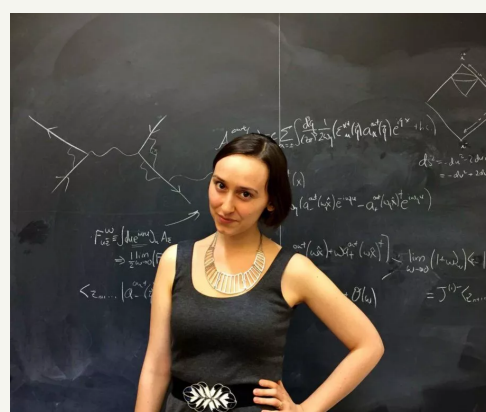
Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa



Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa is a world-renowned researcher and neurosurgeon who runs the research lab at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. Quiñones-Hinojosa and his team have published more than 150 scientific studies on the development of brain cancer. He also leads the National Institute of Health initiative to find a cure for brain cancer and has worked relentlessly to save patients with brain cancer. He also developed minimally-invasive neurosurgical techniques with the use of nanotechnology which have been a game-changer in the medical field.

Famous quote: "I'm not a genius. I just worked really, really hard, and I want our generation, our children and our future generations to realize that they can fulfill the same dreams."

Sabrina Gonzalez Pasterski



At 28, Sabrina Gonzalez Pasterski already has a long list of accomplishments. When she was 14 years old, she was the youngest human being to build an airplane, certify it airworthy, and conduct the first flight in that same aircraft. She studied physics at MIT and was the first female to win the MIT Physics Orloff Scholarship award. The list goes on and on. Sabrina is a first generation Cuban American who has been called the next Einstein. When she was 24, she started her doctorate degree in physics at Harvard. In 2015, she completed a solo research paper on electromagnetic memory which Stephen Hawking cited in his research that was published the year after.

Famous quote: "When I want to motivate myself to do more, like, if there's a particular task that I want to do but haven't been able to do it, and I see that someone else has done it, I think 'If they can do it, I can do it.'"

Notable Hispanic Figures In: Art

Frida Kahlo

With her deeply personal and symbolic work, Mexican artist Frida Kahlo has become one of the most famous artists of the 20th century. For much of her career, she was often overlooked as simply the wife of Diego Rivera, but the appreciation of her paintings has only grown from the 1970s onward. Fiercely proud of her Mexican identity, she often incorporated pre-Colombian symbols in her paintings and is known for her colorful Mexican dress. Kahlo, who suffered health issues throughout her life due to a bus accident in her youth, saw her flourishing career cut short due to her untimely death at 47. Her legacy continues to live on and she remains an icon of many feminist and political movements.



The Two Fridas, 1939

This painting was completed shortly after her divorce with Diego Rivera. This portrait shows Frida's two different personalities. One is the traditional Frida in Tehuana costume, with a broken heart, sitting next to an independent, modern dressed Frida.

In this painting, the two Fridas are holding hands. They both have visible hearts and the heart of the traditional Frida is cut and torn open. The main artery, which comes from the torn heart down to the right hand of the traditional Frida, is cut off by the surgical pincers held in the lap of the traditional Frida. The blood keeps dripping on her white dress and she is in danger of bleeding to death. The stormy sky filled with agitated clouds may reflect Frida's inner turmoil.

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

Though he lived to just age 27, American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960–1988) made an indelible mark on the art world. Of Haitian and Puerto Rican descent, Basquiat first made a name for himself when the graffiti tag SAMO appeared across New York City in the late 1970s. Basquiat was one of the first graffiti artists from the underground scene to transition to the fine art market, with his neo-expressionist paintings being exhibited around the world. His art is filled with commentaries on social injustices and class struggles, often in relation to the black community. In 2017, he set a record for an American artist at auction when his 1982 painting *Untitled*, a black skull with red and black rivulets sold for \$110.5 million.



Untitled, 1982

The artwork is a human head, summarized to a mimic symbol of itself. It's flattened and squashed, and the skull's back is bulging out to the side. Without a doubt, its popping eyes and gaping mouth may depict how painful it is to be reduced to a symbol.

Although the artwork is given a deliberate scrawled feeling, it preserves a bit of subjectivity, which provides the form with some emotional weight. As you can distinctively notice, the nostrils are defined with black dots contrasting directly with the eyes two white dots. These features give the face a definition and the accent that makes the skull's gaze lookout, a fascinating painting to dive into.

Notable Hispanic Figures In: Sports

Tony Gonzalez

There's no doubt in anyone's mind that Tony Gonzalez, one of the greatest tight ends to ever play the sports, will be a first-ballot inductee to the Pro Football Hall of Fame when he becomes eligible in 2019. The Mexican-American is a 14-time Pro Bowler, and he holds the record for most career reception yards and touchdowns by a tight end.



Dara Torres

Former competitive swimmer, who is a 12-time Olympic medalist and former world record-holder in three events. Torres is the first swimmer to represent the United States in five Olympic Games, and at age 41, the oldest swimmer to earn a place on the U.S. Olympic team. She has also won at least one medal in each of the five Olympics in which she has competed, making her one of only a handful of Olympians to earn medals in five different Games.



Roberto Clemente

Arguably the greatest beisbolero to ever don the Pittsburgh Pirates uniform, #21 was a 15-time Allstar who led his team to two World series (1960 and 1971). He's also one of 31 players to get 3,000 hits. One of the first Latinos enshrined at Cooperstown, Clemente tragically died in 1972 plane crash that was delivering aid to the victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua.



Lorena Ochoa

Considered to be the best Mexican golfer of all time. On top of that, she is the first Mexican golfer to be ranked number one in the world. Fans admired her for her talent and her Mexican pride. She was known to visit the staff of the golf course before playing to thank them for their hard work. She played the U.S.-based LPGA Tour from 2003 to 2010 and was the top-ranked female golfer in the world from April 23, 2007, to her retirement on May 2, 2010, at the age of 28 years old.

