



México Mágico: Magical Mexico City
Exploring the Colors of Mexican Folk Art
With Marina Aguirre and Dr. Khristaan Villela

For the Friends of Folk Art - Santa Fe, NM

September 4 – 12, 2017



Join the Friends of Folk Art and MOIFA's Director for a special journey to Mexico

Day 1 – Monday, September 4

Arrive México City in the afternoon. Transfer to our centrally located accommodations at the Best Western Majestic Hotel.

Dinner on your own

Day 2 – Tuesday, September 5

Breakfast at hotel is included daily

Visit and tour of Museo de Arte Popular (Folk Art Museum)

Lunch at Casa de los Azulejos, "House of Tiles, an 18th century palace (included)

Afternoon visit to National Museum of Anthropology, one of the most important museums in the world, and home to Mexico's national collection of Precolumbian art. Our tour will focus on Mexico's rich indigenous arts and its connection and historic roots in Mexican folk art. There will not be time to see the entire museum.

Dinner at Bonito Restaurant in the Condesa neighborhood (included)

Day 3 – Wednesday, September 6

Breakfast at hotel

Visit to Diego Rivera's mural "Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in Alameda Central Park" at the Museo Mural Diego Rivera. The mural provides an introduction to Mexico's history and is an important point of reference for the work of Diego Rivera. The museum is a 30-minute walk from the hotel so you can walk or ride in the van.

Visit the private collection of Ruth Lechuga at the **Franz Mayer Museum**. This collection is only available to scholars, and we have a rare opportunity to enjoy one of the most important folk art collections in Mexico. It includes textiles, masks, toys, lacquer, as well as an extensive photographic record related to Mexican folk art.

Lunch at Café Tacuba (included)

Visit the Palacio de Bellas Artes (Palace of Fine Arts) – this beautiful palace houses murals by the most famous names of Mexican Art.

Ballet Folklórico Performance at 7:30 p.m. (included)

Dinner in the Centro Historico (included)

Day 4 – Thursday, September 7

Breakfast at hotel

Walk or ride to the Antiguo Colegio San Idelfonso, home to the first mural painted by Diego Rivera in the 1920s.

Visit the Ministry of Education to see Diego Rivera murals on three levels there and discuss the themes they illustrate.

"Cartoneria" Workshop with Leonardo Linares – Linares is the grandson of Pedro Linares, the creator of the "*Alebríjes*," the brightly colored and fantastical folk art sculptures. The unique style of Don Pedro and Leonardo Linares has earned them a place in the folk art collector's bible "Great Masters of Mexican Folk Art." We will learn about the papier-mâché process used in creating these sculptures and there will be an opportunity to try your hand at the process.

Lunch with the Linares family (included)

Afternoon visit to La Ciudadela Market where you will have the opportunity to peruse and shop for folk art.

Dinner on your own

Day 5 – Friday, September 8

Breakfast at hotel

We will travel to the south of Mexico City to visit **Casa Azul** (“Blue House”) the fascinating home of Frida Kahlo. The house is located in Coyoacan, one of the most charming neighborhoods in Mexico City, so we will take time to see its lively square and experience its markets, much as Diego and Frida loved to do!

Next we travel to the Xochimilco neighborhood to pay a visit to the **Dolores Olmedo Museum**, home to the one of the largest collections of art works by Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. We will learn about Dolores Olmedo Patino, an entrepreneur and captain of industry, who was a patron of the arts and of Diego Rivera. Strolling the former hacienda grounds, we will see peacocks and adorable “xolo” (“Mexican Hairless”) dogs.

In the afternoon we will take a “trajinera” boat ride on the **Floating Gardens of Xochimilco** to experience the scenery and to learn about the ancient agricultural techniques developed by the native people living in this region of the Mexico City Basin.

Lunch on the boat with Mariachi music (included)

Return to hotel in late afternoon

Dinner on your own

Day 6 – Saturday, September 9

We travel to San Angel, a short drive from the city center. First we visit the surreal **Anahuacalli Museum**, designed by Diego Rivera to house his collection of ancient Mesoamerican art and antiquities.

From here, we will visit the colorful and festive **Bazaar Sábado** (Saturday Art Market) to see and shop for wonderful Mexican arts and crafts.

We will also spend time at the **Museo Casa Estudio Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo**, the home and studios of Diego and Frida from 1934 to 1940, designed by their friend, the architect and artist, Juan O’Gorman. The twin studies were the first example of International Style architecture in Mexico.

Lunch at the San Angel Inn (included)

Return to hotel in late afternoon

Dinner on your own

Day 7 – Sunday, September 10

We will travel to **Metepc**, 2 hours from Mexico City for a **workshop with the Aurelio Flores family**. Aurelio Flores was the first potter to develop the intricate Tree of Life candelabras and incense burners in the 1920’s. Brightly, colored, elaborately decorated, rich in whimsy and

symbolism, the Tree of Life is one of the most distinctive and popular expressions of Mexican folk art.

Lunch with the Flores family (included)

On the way back to our hotel, we will stop at the **Cosmovital**, a stained glass and botanical garden located in Toluca.

Return to hotel in late afternoon

Dinner on your own

Day 8 – Monday, September 11

Today we venture out to the northwest of the Mexico City Basin, to visit **Teotihuacan**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most important centers of cultural influence in all of Mesoamerica. Our focus at this massive site will be on the daily life of the Precolumbian people who lived here. We will learn about past and present explorations and will view the fascinating murals and monumental structures at the site. We will also spend time at the new **Museum of Muralism** to learn about mural iconography and techniques of the ancient civilizations of Mexico. A van will be available to take us to locations throughout the site.

Lunch (included)

Farewell dinner (included)

Day 9 – Tuesday, September 12 - Return Flights Home

Note: This itinerary may be refined or changed slightly based on local conditions.

**This trip will involve some walking on uneven surfaces*

This Trip Includes:

- Hotel Accommodations
- Airport Transfers
- Entry fees to museums
- Two artist workshops
- Comfortable / Secure Transportation in a Sprinter van
- Breakfasts at the hotel, 6 lunches and 3 dinners
- Ballet Folklórico Performance tickets

Exclusions:

- Round trip airfare to Mexico City
- Personal Expenses, extra beverages and alcoholic drinks
- Trip insurance (It is recommended that travelers purchase trip insurance)
- Airport transfers for arrival and departure times not compatible with group transfers
- Tips for guides and drivers

Price and Payment Information

This trip is open only to current members of Friends of Folk Art.

The total price per person based on double occupancy is \$2,130. The single supplement is \$350. This price includes a \$250 donation to the Museum of International Folk Art through the Museum of New Mexico Foundation and is tax deductible.

A deposit of \$500/person is due upon registration and confirmation. Payment can be made by check made out to the Museum of New Mexico Foundation and mailed to:

Museum of International Folk Art
FOFA Trip to Mexico City
P.O. Box 2087
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

If you wish to pay by credit card, call Laura May-Lovejoy at the Museum of International Folk Art at (505) 476-1203 or (505) 660-8903.

A notice for the final balance of \$1,630/person will be sent to you in March 2017.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

If a cancellation is made before April 1, 2017, you will receive a full refund. Partial refunds less the \$250 donation and any non-refundable expenses will be considered until July 1, 2017.

No refunds will be made for trip cancellations after July 1, 2017.

Please purchase trip insurance

About Khristaan Villela

Khristaan D. Villela, PhD is the Director of the Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, NM. He specializes in the history of Pre-Columbian and Latin American art, and on the reception of ancient American culture in the modern world. He has curated exhibitions at the Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, the Miho Museum, Kyoto, Japan, and the New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe. Most recently he was consulting curator for *Miguel Covarrubias: Drawing a*

Cosmopolitan Line, Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe (2014). He is the author of *Ancient Civilizations of the Americas: Man, Nature, and Spirit in Pre-Columbian Art* (Miho Museum, 2011); *The Aztec Calendar Stone* (with Mary Miller, Getty Publications, 2010); and *Contemporary Mexican Architecture and Design* (with Ellen Bradbury Reid and Logan Wagner, Gibbs Smith Publications, 2002). Khristaan grew up in a home filled with Mexican folk art and is an enthusiastic supporter of folk artists.

About Marina Aguirre

Marina began her professional life as a banker but made a major career change to follow her passions of history and anthropology. She has a master’s degree in Ethno History and is a Ph.D. candidate in History. Her dissertation is “The roots of patronage in the religious celebrations of villages in Chiapas, Mexico in the 16th & 17th centuries.” Based in Merida, Yucatan, Marina has led previous trips to Mexico City and to other areas of Mexico including Chiapas and Oaxaca for the past five years. www.marinaaguirre.blogspot.com