International Sculpture Center
ISC Cultural Tour

Zona Maco / Contemporary Art / Architecture / Culinary Experiences / Feb 7 – 12, 2023
Contact List

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**Sofitel Mexico City**
Av. Paseo de la Reforma 297,
Cuauhtémoc,
06500 Ciudad de México, CDMX
+52 55 8660 0500
Tuesday
Feb 7, 2023

4:00 pm
Meet and Greet.
To be held at the Lobby Bar of the Sofitel located on the 14 floor, for a meet-&-greet-drink before departure.

5:00 pm
Meet in hotel motor lobby (ground floor) and depart by van.

5:30pm
Visit OMR Gallery and meet with artist Alicja Kwade.
Córdoba 100, Roma Nte., Cuauhtémoc, 06700 Ciudad de México, CDMX

6:30 pm
Walk to: Arroniz gallery for the opening and performance by Mónica Espinosa.
Also on view: Carlos Sagrera and Madeline Jimenez.
Tabasco 198, Roma Nte., Cuauhtémoc, 06700 Ciudad de México, CDMX

7:30pm
Walk to: Dinner at Rosetta.
Colima 166, Roma Nte., Cuauhtémoc, 06700 Ciudad de México, CDMX

9:30pm
Depart by van. Return to hotel.

Wednesday
Feb 8, 2023

9:00am
Depart hotel by van.

9:30 am
Studio Visit: Perla Krauze.
Jose Alvarado 24 A entre Medellin y Monterrey Colonia Roma

10:30 am
Depart by van.

11:00 am
Brunch at collectors Rudy Weissenberg and Rodman Primack’s home.

1:00 pm
Depart by van.

1:30 pm
Preview of Zona Maco. Free visit on your own.
Centro Banamex
Av. del Conscripto, Lomas de Sotelo, Hipódromo de las Américas, Miguel Hidalgo, 11619 Naucalpan de Juárez, CDMX

4:00 pm
Reconvene at the entrance to fair by box office. Transfer to hotel. Arrive at hotel around 4:45 pm.

6:30 pm
Depart hotel by van.

7:00 pm
Cocktail at MUSEO KALUZ visit exhibition: (re) generando narrativas e imaginarinos (women artists) and view Sculptor Paloma Torres’ installation.
Av. Hidalgo 85,
Centro Histórico de la Cdad. de México, Guerrero, Cuauhtémoc,
06300 Ciudad de México, CDMX

7:45 pm
Depart by van.

8:00 pm
Dinner at Amaya.
Calle Gral. Prim 95, Juárez, Cuauhtémoc, 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX

10:00pm
Return to hotel.

Thursday
Feb 9, 2023

8:30 am
Depart hotel.
[There will be boxed lunch available for the 2:30-hour drive, so feel free to skip breakfast]

11:00 am
Tour the estate and collection of Bernardo Gomez Martinez.
Carretera Valle de Bravo Los Saucos, 51200 Valle de Bravo, Méx.

2:00 pm
Lunch at Hotel Rodavento.
(place next door to the estate, 5 minutes away by van)

3:30 pm
Depart back to Mexico City.

5:30 pm
Return to hotel.

7:00 pm
Depart walking. Visit Ago Projects.
Av. Paseo de la Reforma 382-int 501, Juárez, Cuauhtémoc, 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX

8:00 pm
Walk to Dinner with Jaime Serra at his private restaurant Tokio 64.
Tokio 64, Juárez, Cuauhtémoc, 06600 Ciudad de México, CDMX
Friday
Feb 10, 2023

9:00 am
Depart hotel by van to Historic Center.

9:30 am
Bellas Artes Palace. See murals and visit Federico Silva exhibition.
Av. Juárez S/N,
Centro Histórico de la Cdad. de México, Centro,
Cuauhtémoc, 06050 Ciudad de México, CDMX

10:45 am
Depart by van.

11:00 am
Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso.
Justo Sierra 16, Centro Histórico de la Cdad. de México, Centro, 06020 Ciudad de México, CDMX

12:00 pm
Depart walking through Templo Mayor Ruins (stop for an explanation of the area by Maricela)

12:30 pm
Arrive to Seminario 12. lunch with Colectivo Amasijo. Visit exhibition Versos de Porquería by Naomi Rincón Gallardo.
Seminario 12, Centro Histórico de la Cdad. de México, Centro, Cuauhtémoc, 06000 Centro, CDMX

3:00 pm
Depart by van.

3:30 pm
Museo del Chopo exhibition of Teresa Serrano.

4:15 pm
Depart by van and return to hotel.

6:00 pm
Depart hotel by van.

6:30 pm
Studio Visit with artists Maximo Gonzalez, Ivan Buenader, Ana Gallardo. Drinks at rooftop.
Santa María La Ribera 19, Sta María la Ribera, Cuauhtémoc, 06400 Ciudad de México, CDMX

8:00 pm
Transfer by van 5 minutes away for Dinner at Tencuíi, in Santa María La Ribera neighborhood.
C. Eligio Ancona 191, Sta María la Ribera, Cuauhtémoc, 06400 Ciudad de México, CDMX

10:00 pm
Return to hotel.

Saturday
Feb 11, 2023

9:30 am
Depart hotel.

10:15 am
Visit the Anahuacalli and meet with the artist Alma Allen to view his show.
Museo 150, San Pablo Tepetlapa, Coyoacán, 04620 Ciudad de México, CDMX

11:30 am
Depart by van.

12:00 pm
Visit MUAC Contemporary Art Museum of the University and meet with artist Francis Alÿs to visit his exhibition.
Av. Insurgentes Sur 3000, C.U., Coyoacán, 04510 Ciudad de México, CDMX

1:00 pm
Drive through UNAM Campus en route to tetetlán.

1:30 pm
Lunch at Tetetlán.
Av. de Las Fuentes 180 - B, Jardines del Pedregal, Álvaro Obregón, 01900 Ciudad de México, CDMX

3:00 pm
Tour Luis Barragan Casa Prieto Lopez (Casa Pedregal) Located next door to Tetetlán.

3:00 pm
Tour Luis Barragan Casa Prieto Lopez (Casa Pedregal) Located next door to Tetetlán.

4:00 pm
Depart by van.

4:45 pm
Arrive to hotel.

6:15 pm
Depart hotel.

6:30 pm
Farewell Dinner will be held at the LAGO/ALGO Located in Chapultepec Park.

10:00 pm
Depart and return to hotel.

Sunday
Feb 12, 2023

Free morning. Hotel check out, transfer to airport.
ACCOMMODATIONS
Sofitel Mexico City
Av. Paseo de la Reforma 297, Cuauhtémoc,
06500 Ciudad de México, CDMX
+52 55 8660 0500
Jr Suites or Prestige Suites, have been reserved for our party (unless you have requested a different room category).

A breakfast is included. It is served at BALTA restaurant located on Floor 12, from 6:00 to 11:30 am every day. It is a buffet breakfast plus a hot dish that you can select from the menu. You do not need to pay for your breakfast, but you may be asked to sign for it. Please tip your waiter.

At the moment of check-in, the hotel will ask you to open an account by leaving an ‘open voucher’ with your credit card information. Upon checkout, they will charge for any incidental expenses that might you may have incurred during your stay, like mini bar usage, phone calls, etc.

You will not have to pay for room, tips for maids and bellboys, Wi-Fi, taxes and breakfast, as these are included in your tour package.

GETTING THERE
The government of Mexico requires that all U.S. citizens present proof of citizenship for entry into Mexico. Driver’s permits, voter registration cards, affidavits and similar documents are not sufficient to prove citizenship for entry into Mexico nor for readmission into the United States, a valid passport is required. US citizens do not require visas to enter Mexico as tourists.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN MEXICO CITY
After de-boarding the plane, you will need to proceed to the immigration area, be prepared with your immigration and custom forms, which are normally distributed by the airline. After passing through Immigration, go to the baggage area and collect your bags then proceed to the exit. Hand the customs form to the Customs Agent and push the button on the ‘traffic light’. It is set up to randomly turn green for Go or red for Stop and Inspect. If you do get a red light, they will kindly ask to see the contents of your bags.

HOW TO GET A TAXI AT THE AIRPORT?
After exiting through the glass doors of the customs area into the general airport lobby, you should proceed to the signs marked TAXI AUTORIZADO (for Authorized Taxi).

You can pay for the service with Mexican pesos obtained in the numerous banks or ATM’s inside the airport, or with a card. Once you tell them your hotel name, they will tell you the rate, the transport will cost anywhere from 275 to 450 pesos. All taxis servicing the airport’s kiosks are government approved and reliable. After paying for your taxi and receiving a receipt, proceed to the side walk and you will take the first taxi in line. The people at the kiosk can indicate this for you.

PRIVATE TRANSFERS
If you have requested a private car and driver to pick you up at the airport, the driver will be waiting for you as you exit the baggage claim and customs area into the main airport lobby holding a sign with your name on it. The transfer has been hired through the hotel and will take you there directly without further instructions. The cost of this will be charged to your room.

STAYING IN TOUCH
To call Mexico from the US you will need to dial the long distance prefix followed by the country code: 011 - 52 and the city code, which is 55 and then the 8 digit number, for example: 52301818

Your US mobile phone can work perfectly in Mexico City IF you call your provider BEFORE traveling. Let them know how many days you will be abroad and that you need to activate the International Roaming. Some plans and/or companies have this service activated automatically but if you are not sure if you have it, it is better to call your cell phone company before traveling and get informed about the coverage and rates they provide.

MEDICINE AND HEALTH INFORMATION
If you are bringing any medication, be sure to have a written prescription and the generic name for the drugs. Pack your medications in your carry-on luggage. To avoid problems at customs, keep medicine in their original, labeled containers.

Remember Mexico City is at an altitude of over 7,400 feet and the air is much thinner than you are probably accustomed to. Occurrences of light-headedness, mild headaches, breathlessness and tiring easily are common. Drink a lot of water and be very careful with alcohol consumption. Take your time and rest often.

Adequate medical care can be found in all major cities. Excellent health facilities are available in Mexico City.

Tap water is not recommended for drinking. Bottled water and beverages are safe as well as the ice in all of the hotels and restaurant that we will visit.

Visitors should exercise caution when buying food or beverages from street vendors.

VACCINATIONS
No shots are required when traveling between the United States and Mexico.

MONEY
ATMs are very common in Mexico, and are the easiest source of cash. You can use bankcards and major credit cards, to withdraw pesos from ATMs (Look for the Cirrus and Plus systems symbol on the back of your card.) The exchange rate that banks use for ATM withdrawals is normally more in your favor than the ‘tourist rate’ for currency exchange – though that advantage may be negated by extra handling fees charged by your bank. You can also use traveler’s checks or bring US dollars in cash. You can exchange money in banks, at the airport, or in casas de cambio. Note that bank exchange facilities are often only open between 9am and 3pm or 4pm. Major credit cards are accepted by most hotels and restaurants.

Note that the dollar sign is used to refer to pesos in Mexico; prices in US dollars are usually marked US$ or USD.

The current rate of exchange is approximately $1.00 = 19 pesos, but it may vary from week to week. Exchange rate for U.S. dollars http://www.banxico.gob.mx/

Mexico has a 16% value-added tax (IVA), which by law must be included in quoted prices. Sometimes, usually in top-end hotels, prices are quoted without this tax.

TIPS
Tipping in good restaurants is equivalent to US levels - somewhere between 10% and 15%. Workers in the tourism and hospitality industries often depend on tips to supplement meager wages.

You don’t need to leave a tip for the housekeeper in the hotel, as this is included in the room rate.

A porter in the airport or a mid-range hotel will be happy with $20 pesos a bag.

Taxi drivers don’t generally expect tips unless they go out of their way for you or help you with heavy bags; in that case he would be pleased with 20 – 50 pesos (1 to 2.5 USD).
WEATHER

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ATTIRE

Mexico City is a cosmopolitan, international city and much less conservative than the rest of the country. Business/casual attire for this trip is appropriate.

Suggested daywear would be dressy pants or skirts and short or long sleeved tops or shirts, with sweaters or a light jacket in case of cooler temperatures. Stay away from wearing shorts and sandals. Comfortable walking shoes are advised for the day as well as sunscreen.

Evening attire is a bit dressier than daywear. We suggest collared shirts for men (sport coats are optional). No restaurant or event will require men to wear a tie so this accessory is entirely optional. We will try to return to the hotel between afternoon and evening activities so you have an opportunity to change. Sweaters, coats or jackets are advised for the evenings.

We can expect some light rain so you may want to be prepared with a portable umbrella or raincoat. We do expect cold temperatures so make sure you pack some warm clothes.

ELECTRICITY

Same as in the United States, 127V, 60Hz.

Flat blade plug

LOCAL TIME

Mexico City time is CST. This means that it is 1 hour behind New York and 2 hours ahead of Los Angeles.

US EMBASSY


SAFETY

Your passport, cash and credit cards are most secure when locked in a hotel safe. You may want to keep a copy of your passport with you when you are out on the streets during day activities.

Pick pocketing is commonplace, so please be sure to use inside pockets, a money belt or pouch worn under your clothing. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and carrying big amounts of money when you leave the hotel, especially during the day when we will be walking more.

It is best to use taxis summoned by telephone or contacted in advance, as opposed to hailing a taxi down on the street. When in need of a taxi, please telephone a radio taxi or “sitio” (regulated taxi stand – pronounced “C-T-O”), and ask the dispatcher for the driver’s name and the cab’s license plate number. Your tour guide or any hotel staff can assist you in obtaining a taxi.

We have all read about the high crime rate in Mexico City. These reports, while most of them are true, are also exaggerated. During your time in Mexico City it is important to remember two important facts. The first is that you will be in the company of your travel mates for the entire duration of the trip and you will be accompanied by a local tour guide at all times. In addition, your itinerary is spent in upscale neighborhoods, private homes and well-policed tourist areas.

Shortly after your arrival to Mexico City you will sense a completely different atmosphere than you might expect based on what you have read and seen on TV.

CULTURE

Deeply rich and colorful, Mexico’s vibrant culture is evident wherever you look. It has a spirit that soaks itself into the art, the architecture, the food and the literature. Mexico is covered with murals, filled with galleries and carries a deep folk-art tradition and has produced some of the world’s most renowned painters. Its ancient civilizations have produced some of the most spectacular architecture ever built, while its modern proponents deliver some ground-breaking examples of contemporary design.

The arts were regarded as an important part of the national revival after the revolution. Mexico’s top artists, such as Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, were commissioned to decorate important public buildings with large, vivid murals on social and historical themes. Frida Kahlo, who married Rivera, painted anguished self-portraits and surreal images that became hugely popular in the 1980s, decades after her death. These days Mexico City has a thriving contemporary arts scene, with artists like Francis Alys, Damian Ortega and Gabriel Orozco leading the group.

Renowned Mexican writers include Carlos Fuentes, Jorge Ibarqüengoitia and the 1990 Nobel Prize-winner Octavio Paz. Juan Rulfo is generally regarded as the country’s supreme novelist. His novel Pedro Páramo has been described as ‘Wuthering Heights set in Mexico and written by Kafka.’ Laura Esquivel achieved huge success with her novel Like Water for Chocolate (1989).

Mexican cuisine is centered on three national staples: tortillas, beans and chili peppers. Tortillas are thin round patties of pressed corn or wheat-flour dough cooked on griddles. Beans (frijoles) are eaten boiled, fried or refried, in soups, on tortillas or with just about anything. Apart from an astonishing array of freshly squeezed fruit juices (jugos), which are readily available from street stalls, Mexico is also famous for its alcoholic beverages - mezcal and tequila in particular. Pulque is a mildly alcoholic drink derived directly from the sap of the maguey.

HISTORY

Highly developed cultures, including those of the Olmecs, Mayas, Toltecs, and Aztecs existed long before the Spanish conquest. Hernando Cortes conquered Mexico during the period 1519-21 and founded a Spanish colony that lasted nearly 300 years. Father Miguel Hidalgo proclaimed Independence from Spain on September 16, 1810; this launched a war for independence. An 1821 treaty recognized Mexican independence from Spain and called for a constitutional monarchy. The planned monarchy failed; a republic was proclaimed in December 1822 and established in 1824.
Prominent figures in Mexico’s war for independence were Father Jose Maria Morelos; Gen. Augustin de Iturbide, who defeated the Spaniards and ruled as Mexican emperor from 1822-23; and Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, who went on to control Mexican politics from 1833 to 1855. Santa Ana was Mexico’s leader during the conflict with Texas, (which declared itself independent from Mexico in 1836), and during Mexico’s war with the United States (1846-48). The presidential terms of Benito Juarez (1858-71) were interrupted by the Habsburg monarchy’s rule of Mexico (1864-67). Archduke Maximilian of Austria, whom Napoleon III of France established as Emperor of Mexico, was deposed by Juarez and executed in 1867. Gen. Porfirio Diaz was president during most of the period between 1877 and 1911.

Mexico’s severe social and economic problems erupted in a revolution that lasted from 1910-20 and gave rise to the 1917 constitution. Prominent leaders in this period—some of whom were rivals for power—were Francisco Madero, Venustiano Carranza, Francisco Villa, Alvaro Obregon, Victoriano Huerta, and Emiliano Zapata. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), formed in 1929 under a different name, emerged as a coalition of interests after the chaos of the revolution as a vehicle for keeping political competition in peaceful channels. For 71 years, Mexico’s national government had been controlled by the PRI, which had won every presidential race and most gubernatorial races until the July 2000 presidential election of Vicente Fox Quesada of the National Action Party (PAN). The PAN won a second presidential term in 2006 with Felipe Calderon. Then in 2012 the PRI took power again with president Enrique Peña Nieto. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador took the presidency in 2018 with a party that he created MORENA.

ORIENTATION

Mexico City’s 350 colonias (neighborhoods) sprawl across the ancient bed of Lago de Texcoco and beyond. The vast urban expanse is daunting at first, but the main areas of interest to visitors are easily comprehensible. The historic heart of the city, El Zócalo, and its surrounding neighborhoods known as the Centro Histórico (Historic Center) are full of notable old buildings and interesting museums. Avenida Madero and Avenida Cinco de Mayo link the Zócalo with the Alameda Central park. West of the Alameda, across Paseo de la Reforma, is the Plaza de la República, a fairly quiet, mostly residential area. Mexico City’s grandest boulevard is Paseo de la Reforma, running across the city’s heart, connecting the Alameda to the Zona Rosa and the Bosque de Chapultepec. The Zona Rosa (Pink Zone) pulsates with glitzy shopping, eating, hotels and nightlife; it’s bound by Paseo de la Reforma to the north and Avenida Chapultepec to the south. The Chapultepec Park is to the west of the aforementioned districts. It is full of greenery and lakes, with museums and cultural tidbits to boot.

Avenida Insurgentes Sur connects Paseo de la Reforma to most points of interest in the south. Just west of Insurgentes, south of the Zona Rosa, is Colonia Condesa, a restaurant hotspot. Farther south are the atmospheric former villages of San Ángel and Coyoacán and the vast campus of UNAM, the National Autonomous University of Mexico. To the southeast, canals and gardens (and many a tourist) wind through Xochimilco.

VALLE DE BRAVO

Valle de Bravo is a town and municipality located in State of Mexico, Mexico. It is located on the shore of Lake Avándaro, approximately 156 km southwest of Mexico City and west of Toluca on highways 15. It takes about 2 hours to drive from Mexico City to Valle de Bravo, making it a popular weekend getaway for the capital’s affluent upper class.

The town has several names during its history including San Francisco del Valle de Temascaltepec, Temascaltepec de indios, Villa del Valle, and San Francisco del Valle. The original names including Temascaltepec caused confusion with the nearby “Real de Minas de Temascaltepec”, now Temascaltepec, so the county was known as “El Valle” (The Valley. The honorific “de Bravo” was added later to recognize Nicolás Bravo who fought at the Castle of Chapultepec during the Mexican–American War.

In 1971, Valle de Bravo was known as typical city (ciudad típica) and magical town (pueblo mágico) in 2005. The town and the surrounding area are well known in Mexico as a tourism destination, mainly because it is only 2 hours away from Mexico City and for having hosted the world-famous events Circuito Avándaro (auto racing event) and Festival de rock y Ruedas (a massive rock music festival).

Population: 61,559
Elevation: 6,070 ft

USEFUL SPANISH PHASES

Hello / Hi
Yes / No
Please
Thank you
Good morning
Good afternoon
Good evening/night
Goodbye
See you later
See you soon
See you tomorrow
You’re welcome
Sorry
How are you?
Pleased to meet you
Have fun
Have a good trip
And you?
Good luck
I have to go
My Name is...
I’m from...
I don’t speak spanish
I don’t understand
What?
Where?
Who?
When?
Why?
Which?
Please speak slowly
Could you repeat that?
Can you help me?
What time is it?
Help!
Stop!
Police
Leave me alone
I don’t know
Just a moment

Hola
Sí / No
Por favor
Gracias
Buenos Dias
Buenas Tardes
Buenas Noches
Adios
Hasta Luego
Hasta Pronto
Hasta Mañana
De nada
Lo Siento
Como estas
Encantada (o)
Que te diviertas
Buen Viaje
Y usted? / y tu?
Buena suerte
Tengo que irme
Mi nombre es...
Soy de...
No hablo español
No entiendo
Qué?
Donde?
Quién?
Cuándo?
Por qué?
Cual?
Porfavor, hable despacio
Puede repetir eso?
Puede ayudarme?
Qué hora es?
Socorrer! / Auxilio!
Alto!
Policía
Dejeme en paz
No lo se
Un momento
Staff Bios

NELSA FARRUGIA, TOUR COORDINATOR.

After her studies in Marketing, Nelsa’s affair with the visual arts begins at Art Quest Intl., a US-based boutique travel agency specializing in art and architecture tours around the world, where she organized and participated in dozens of meetings with artists, gallery owners, collectors and all kinds heavyweights of the art world. She went on to continue her studies at the ENAH National School of Anthropology and History.

A passionate advocate of the art and history of her native Mexico, Nelsa has participated in projects such as organizing a satellite art fair at Art Basel 2010, working hand-in-hand with the Director of the National Art Museum in Mexico City and launching and directing the Affordable Art Fair in Mexico City until 2014. Even though she has organized and curated art tours since 2005, it was only in 2016 that she founded Mexico Cultural Travel and has dedicated solely on working with Cultural Institutions to create exclusive VIP experiences for Art Patrons that travel to Mexico.

MARICELA MUÑOZ, TOUR GUIDE.

My name is Maricela Muñoz, I was born in Mexico City and have lived here most of my life. My academic training has provided me a broad general education background with emphasis on Anthropology, Art History, History and Archaeology that since 2006 inspired me to work as an Independent Cultural Heritage Travel Guide and Luxury Business/Cultural Travel Planner & Consultant, acting as a representative and promoter of the Mexican culture among national and international high-profile clients. I also have extensive experience working as a teacher and lecturer. Since childhood I was drawn to people who came from other countries and spoke other languages, and spontaneously started to help and guide travelers that I came across in the city or in other destinations in the country during my vacations.

Inspired by the fascination that I felt for the cultural diversity of my country and the world I studied two bachelor’s degrees, one in Anthropology at the National School of Anthropology and History, and a second one in Art History at the Iberoamericana University. After graduating I moved to France to practice French and discover the history and culture of France, experience that led me to carry out postgraduate studies in Archaeology and Art History at the University of Aix-Marseille in the south of France. The opportunity to live abroad and travel through Europe, Asia and Africa, made me recognize even more the particularities of my country and appreciate them more than ever, as if the richness of the Mexican culture was revealed to me when recalling it from each new country I visited.

One day I was visiting the Basilica of Saint Denis located in a Parisian suburb and something great happened: I discovered the wonderful profession of Tourist Guide when I watched a lady explain the history and legends of the building to a group of foreigners... What a wonderful discovery! A job that combined my greatest passions: meeting people from different nationalities and backgrounds, the transmission of cultural contents and the habitual use of foreign languages. At that moment I knew that was the dream job for me, and at when I finished my studies in France I came back to Mexico and I got certified as a professional Tourist Guide. Since then, I have over 15 years of experience offering travel consultancy and guiding services both in English and French for individuals, families and groups from around the world, as well as for national and international cultural institutions, embassies, travel agencies, hotels, among others. I conduct cultural itineraries in Mexico City and the nearby states (State of Mexico, Morelos, Puebla and Guanajuato), and also have experience guiding multi-day circuits that cover the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca, Yucatan and Quintana Roo. Attention to the specific interests of each client is a priority in my work, striving not only to increase their knowledge and understanding of Mexico but also to help them solve different contingencies that a traveler can face, which I perfectly know thanks to my travel experience around the world. I enjoy serving people and my main goal and reward is that your trip in Mexico is fun, informative and unforgettable, the same kind of trip I would love to have.

JUAN PABLO ALCIBAR, TOUR ASSISTANT.

Interdisciplinary Mexican abstract painter and mixed media artist. Alcibar’s works are energetic abstractions that captures a persons intimate relationship with life. His art responds to our connection with nature, color and the spiritual realm. He is influenced by meditative practices and enjoys reflecting artistic freedom through clashing forms and textures in his art.
OMR GALLERY
Galería OMR is a contemporary art gallery located in Mexico City. Galería OMR was founded in 1983 by its principals Patricia Ortiz Monasterio and Jaime Riestra. The gallery is located in the Roma district which is now recognized as the leading art scene area in Mexico City. The gallery represents emerging and established contemporary artists, and it is the exclusive representative of the estates of Adolfo Riestra, Luis Ortiz Monasterio, and Alberto Gironella. Since its beginning, Galería OMR has been a major influence of the arts in Mexico, showing avant-garde artists that have now become some of the referential points of the Mexican contemporary art scene. Among the fairs in which the gallery participates are Zona MACO (Mexico), Art Basel (Switzerland), Art Brussels (Belgium) and Art Basel Miami (USA). In 2009, OMR opened a project space in the anex building called el52, with the purpose of generating a new platform for a younger demographic of artists and a new basis for the gallery structure.

ALICJA KWADE (B.1979)
Alicja Kwade’s work investigates and questions the structures of our reality and society and reflects on the perception of time in our everyday life. Her diverse practice, based around concepts of space, science and philosophy, takes shape in sculptural objects, large scale installations, photography from UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), and an exchange student in the Fine Arts program at the Statliche der Bildenden Kunste Karlsruhe, Germany. Her work has been exhibited in renowned international institutions, including The National Museum Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Spain; MALBA, Buenos Aires; Museo Ex Teresa Arte Actual, Mexico, among others. She has won prestigious awards from institutions such as a FONCA award for a residence at Banff Centre in Canada, the Young Artists FONCA scholarship, the scholarship for International Studies from The Jumex Collection, Mexico; and a scholarship from the Kunst Akademie in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Her body of work is part of collections such as the Progressive Art Collection, USA; The Jumex Museum Collection, Mexico; The Maraloto Collection, Colombia; among others.

She currently lives and works in Mexico City.

ARRÓNIZ GALLERY
Arróniz emerged from a particular interest to work with a new generation of artists from Mexico and Latin America. Our main drive is to support and closely follow the careers of our artists both locally and internationally. A key element to our labor are the multiple exchanges with other galleries from other countries and participation in art fairs around the world. Our local program is composed by exhibitions of our represented artists, and a parallel presentation in the projects room where a specific piece or project –created with the space in mind– is showed. This allows us to expand our cultural offer to new audiences while working in collaboration with other artists, curators and institutions.

MONICA ESPINOSA (B. 1977)
She holds a BA in Arts from the National School of Painting, Sculpture and Engraving “La Esmeralda” (INBA, Mexico City); is technician in Photography from UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), and an exchange student in the Fine Arts program at the Städtische der Bildenden Kunste Karlsruhe, Germany. Her work has been exhibited in renowned international institutions, including The National Museum Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Spain; MALBA, Buenos Aires; Museo Ex Teresa Arte Actual, Mexico, among others. She has won prestigious awards from institutions such as a FONCA award for a residence at Banff Centre in Canada, the Young Artists FONCA scholarship, the scholarship for International Studies from The Jumex Collection, Mexico; and a scholarship from the Kunst Akademie in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Her body of work is part of collections such as the Progressive Art Collection, USA; The Jumex Museum Collection, Mexico; The Maraloto Collection, Colombia; among others.

She currently lives and works in Mexico City.

ROSETTA
It is located in Colonia Roma. Its cuisine is based on a deep respect for Mexican ingredients.

Its menu, which changes permanently according to the availability of products, is distinguished by having both Elena Reygadas’ creations and other more traditional dishes.

Housed within several rooms of a beautiful and eclectic mansion, Rosetta sees chef Elena Reygadas – who was named Latin America’s Best Female Chef in 2014 – revamp traditional Mexican dishes. A focus on seasonal ingredients sourced from small producers means the menu can change daily. Rosetta, which is a regular on Latin America’s 50 Best Restaurants, also includes an on-site bakery specializing in sourdoughs.

STUDIO VISIT WITH PERLA KRAUZE (B. 1953)
Perla Krauze’s work is the result of explorations in different environments. The artist collects common elements of nature, which for subjective and personal reasons are part of the material and visual documentation of processes of inner search and of her environment.

Perla Krauze works with a wide range of disciplines and formats, from drawings to penetrable installations, eliciting both intimate and bodily experiences that communicate the experience of her own creative process and establishing a relationship of horizontality between herself and the viewers.

Wednesday
Feb 8, 2023
BRUNCH AT RODMAN PRIMACK AND RUDY WEISSENBerg’S HOME.

RODMAN PRIMACK / CO-FOUNDER AGO PROJECTS

Rodman has long straddled the worlds of contemporary art, collectible design and interiors. After studying art history and international relations, he worked for architect Peter Marino and gallerist Larry Gagosian. He was partner and the chairman of auction house Philips de Pury, London, and later the director of Design Miami and Design Miami, Basel. His interior design practice, RP Miller, is an AD100-listed firm with offices in New York, Aspen and Mexico City. He is contributing editor, Latin American for the World of Interiors Magazine, and vice-president of the Venetian heritage, a New York based philanthropy dedicated to the protection and restoration of architecture and artworks throughout the Venetian Republic.

Rudy Weissenberg / Co-founder AGO Projects. Rudy holds a master’s degree in Design Studies focused on Art, Design and Public Domain from the Harvard Graduate School of Design- Cambridge, MA and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration focused on media Management from Columbia Business School NY. He has combined his interest in media, spending over a decade in both financial and creative roles within large media conglomerates with a passion for art and design, simultaneously curating design exhibitions and advising on art and collectible design. He is actively engaged in the development of thoughtful, design-centric, mixed-use, and residential projects within the urban fabric. He is currently co-chair of the Latin American Circle of friends of the Guggenheim Museum and a member of the GSD Dean Leadership Council.

COCKTAILS AT MUSEO KALUZ

MUSEO KALUZ

MEXICO CITY

It would be easy to think of Museo Kaluz as the very expensive hobby of an extraordinarily rich man. After all, the downtown Mexico City museum was founded, and is funded, by Antonio del Valle Ruiz, who ranks No. 7 on Forbes magazine’s list of wealthiest Mexicans.

But focusing on the benefactor might distract from the benefit Museo Kaluz has provided since it opened in 2020, serving as a public showplace for the 1,800-piece art collection Mr. del Valle spent five decades assembling. The billionaire’s tastes fall on the more traditional side. The holdings are nearly all paintings and overwhelmingly figurative and include well-known names like José María Velasco, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco.

A tour through the three-story museum, located along the city’s beloved Alameda Central park, reveals the collection’s intimate portrait galleries, brimming with faces of Mexicans rich, poor, white, brown, aristocratic and Indigenous, and documenting the country’s diversity.

Full Article: https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/14/arts/design/mexico-city-museo-kaluz.html

VISIT THE INSTALLATION BY PALOMA TORRES (B. 1960) AT MUSEO KALUZ.

Paloma Torres, is an innovating artist in sculpture because of her aesthetically brave proposals and also because of the quality of her work that enlarge the mud art. A restless creator worried about the urban world where she lives in. Agglomerate cities, pollution, noise are only a few aspects that incite her to make sculptures that reconstitute aesthetically her environment and make it more bearable. Torres, carries us to rediscover our environment in front of fragmental horizons by cables, ads, pile up of housings, large buildings, urban furniture, she compels us through her work to see and argue about our reality.

Her work puts us in harmony with the urban scenery which in reality makes the human being feel inferior in front of weft in which we live in.

In this way, she conjugates, like no other sculptor in the present day Mexico, the traditional mud art throughout her aesthetics attractive expressions with the problematic where she is involve. Tradition, modernity and concept act as Paloma Torres makes her a very singular visual artist and also a representative of the contemporary art.

DINNER AT AMAYA

GOOD FOOD, RARE WINES: AMAYA

AUGUST 10, 2016

The Juarez neighborhood, the area between Paseo de la Reforma and Avenida Chapultepec, is experiencing a significant rebirth. Wishing to position itself at par with Condesa, Roma or Polanco, it’s starting to propose new restaurants, bars, and cultural events in order to attract both locals and foreigners to this area of Mexico City.

Among the restaurants that have opened on these streets, I recently visited Amaya, a venue highly awaited by the capital’s residents, for being a new project under the leadership of renowned Chef Jair Téllez.

Chef Téllez is famous for his marvelous restaurants Merotoro in Mexico City and Laja in the Valley of Guadalupe, where he transforms Baja California cuisine into its greatest form. Both places have been among the Top 50 Latin America Restaurants by S. Pellegrino and Acqua Panna in recent years.

Full article: https://www.michelleonbell.com/blog/en/good-food-rare-wines-amaya/
Thursday
Feb 9, 2023

BERNARDO GOMEZ MARTINEZ COLLECTION
ONE OF THE TOP 200 COLLECTIONS OF THE WORLD, ACCORDING TO ARTNEWS. Bernardo Gómez Martínez is the executive vice president of the Mexico City–based organization Grupo Televisa, which is regarded as being the most prominent Spanish-speaking mass media company in the world. It’s no stretch to call his leadership strategy hands-on; Gómez Martínez exercises full editorial authority throughout Televisa’s content and oversees all government liaison activity-serving as Televisa’s only liaison with Mexico’s past two presidential campaigns. Additionally, Gómez Martínez handles the workings of the company’s legal division. Televisa is the exclusive airer of Mexican presidential elections, and is considered by many to be the go-to news source in the country.

Gómez Martínez has also served as president of the Mexican National Chamber of Radio and Television Industry, spearheaded the repeal of sixties-era regulations enacted that restricted the country’s digital media. He is the closest adviser to Emilio Azcárraga Jean, who became CEO of Televisa at 29 after the death of his father, Emilio Azcárraga Milmo. Together with colleagues José Bastón and Alfonso de Angoitia Noriega, Azcárraga Jean and Gómez Martínez are widely credited with turning around the fortunes of the media empire, bringing Televisa back from a near bankruptcy.

Though he has been spotted at international art fairs, Gómez Martínez has to date been relatively private about his art collecting. Mexico in general has seen a revitalization of its art collecting scene in recent years, with a thriving art fair in Mexico City’s annual Zona Maco, the opening of prominent private museums like Eugenio Lopez Alonso’s Jumex and Carlos Slim’s Soumaya, and the growth in galleries.

AGO PROJECTS
AGO Projects is a design driven practice and designer representation space started by Rudy F. Weissenberg and Rodman Primack. Based in the energizing creative capitals of Mexico City and New York, AGO Projects is committed to incubating and promoting exceptional design voices. We work together with artists and designers to realize personal projects of various scales while actively enhancing international alliances and opportunities.

We believe in the power of good design as an agent of positive transformation. We encourage the hand made and support artists and designers with a heightened level of social and environmental consciousness that strive for a more equitable society.

DINNER AT JAIME SERRA’S TOKYO 64
Tokyo 64’s foundation is to make the act of cooking an invitation to care for the earth and our body, the food comes directly from the producers in the areas near the city or town, thus ensuring their quality and origin.

For Jaime, it is important to preserve traditional cooking techniques which is why he assembles structures specially designed by him to achieve cooking on an open fire and charcoal. Jaime is convinced that we have to acknowledge the origins and how the field is worked, this is a responsibility that we have to share when we cook and eat.

Friday
Feb 10, 2023

FINE ARTS PALACE
The Palace of Fine Arts is Mexico City’s grandest and most important performance space. It is one of the many public buildings begun during the government of Porfirio Díaz, who was in office from 1876 to 1911. The building features murals that were executed by some of Mexico’s finest artists, including Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and Roberto Montenegro, and houses exhibition halls for sculpture and painting. It is also home to the National Museum of Architecture, and the National Theater.

This stunning Art Nouveau masterpiece was envisioned for the centenary celebrations of Mexico’s independence in 1910, and was completed in 1934. Occupied by the National Institute of Fine Arts since 1947, the Palace of Fine Arts, with its interior surfaces of Carrara marble, has been an artistic center and a venue for notable events in opera, dance, music, art, and literature. The iron and Marotti crystal roof create gallery spaces naturally illuminated by skylights. The use of materials was both innovative and experimental.

FEDERICO SILVA (B, 1923)
On November 30, 2022, Mexican muralist and sculptor Federico Silva passed away at the age of 99, leaving behind a legacy of innovation and boundless creative expression.

Federico began, at first, studying all that the sciences and humanities had to offer. Anthropology, medicine, law – he had an insatiable thirst for knowledge that he eventually turned towards the studio arts. Opting for self-study rather than institutional, he used an extensive study of books to learn the principles of challenging art techniques such as encaustic, frescoes, and tempera. Later in life, he met David Alfaro Siqueiros – an artist who invited Federico to become his assistant, apprentice, and collaborator. Getting the hands-on, professional experience he needed through projects such as the famous mural Nueva Democracia, located in the Palacio de Bellas Artes, he gained confidence and exposure as an independent artist. Creating lasting bonds with fellow artists and mentors Diego Rivera, Leopoldo Méndez, Pablo O’Higgins and the writer José Revuelta, Federico’s own work flourished in a wholly unique direction.
In 1950 Silva executed his first mural which utilized naturalistic realism uncommon to his later body of work. When creating the murals for the engineering faculty at UNAM, he resorted to a geometric-abstract expression that he would use again when completing the murals within the chapel of San Andrés Tectipan in Mexico. Over time, these works became part of a larger collection now known as the murals of the Huites Caves – his most celebrated creation. Working within the long cave drilled into the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains, Silva began the Huites cave painting project in 1992 and completed it four years later in 1996.

ANTIGUO COLEGIO DE SAN IDEFONSO

Colegio de San Idefonso, currently is a museum and cultural center in Mexico City, considered to be the birthplace of the Mexican muralism movement. San Idefonso began as a prestigious Jesuit boarding school, and after the Reform War it gained educational prestige again as National Preparatory School. This school and the building closed completely in 1978, then reopened as a museum and cultural center in 1992. The museum has permanent and temporary art and archeological exhibitions in addition to the many murals painted on its walls by José Clemente Orozco, Fernando Leal, Diego Rivera and others. The complex is located between San Ildefonso Street and Justo Sierra Street in the historic center of Mexico City.

The college was founded 1588 and it is composed of six sections, that are five colonial baroque: the Colegio Grande, Colegio Chico, the chapel, El Generalito and the courtyard of los Pasantes, all completed in 1749; and one modern neo-baroque: the Amphitheater Bolivar.

In 1988 it was acquired in a completely abandoned state and for four years it underwent an intense conservation process that managed to restore almost all of its original structure. Teams of stonemasons, carpenters, and blacksmiths participated in the restoration, guided by a team of masters and restorers whose names endure on the main patio’s stone.

After a renovation carried out by its current stewards, the house is now home to a cultural program open to the public that reflects on affection, restoration, and the commons.

LUNCH SERVED BY COLECTIVO AMASIJO

Amasijo is a group of women from different parts of Mexico (Veracruz, Oaxaca, State of Mexico and Mexico City) united in their desire to actively reflect on the origin and diversity of our food. The collective was born in 2019 when space in the kitchen, stories that tell us the real cost of climate change and show us the way towards the regeneration of the land. As an open collective they cook collectively as a way to share, learn, care, conserve, relate and celebrate the (bio)diversity of food. Their projects are aimed at making visible the interdependence between language, culture and territory. Through these projects, that can take the form of gatherings, dinners, research, actions, ceremonies, exhibitions, markets, seminars, film, talks or other the collective builds the needed structures to form a community in which taking care of ourselves and taking care of the territory we inhabit is priority.

MUSEO DEL CHOPO

The Museo Universitario del Chopo (meaning, “poplar”; locally nicknamed Crystal Palace or simply El Chopo, in Spanish) (Chopo University Museum) is located at Doctor Enrique González Martínez Street in the Colonia Santa Maria la Ribera of Mexico City. It has collections in contemporary art, and is part of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

TERESA SERRANO (B. 1936)
LIVES AND WORKS IN MEXICO CITY AND NEW YORK.

Towards the end of the 70s, Serrano began her artistic studies at the Dolores de la Barra Art Workshop, under the teaching of Javier Arévalo, Robin Bond and José Feher. Since then, her artistic activities have been incessant, and encompass different disciplines such as painting, found object, sculpture, video, and installation.

Serrano’s work is loaded with great personal political undertones; depicting at the same time sexism and gender violence. The artist performs metaphors around the body, the domestic, the femininity and how it can be oppressing. Serrano does so by using different materials, ranging from steel to ceramics and fabrics.

Serrano has had numerous solo shows in museums and galleries such as Museo Amparo, Puebla; Museo Marco de Monterrey, Monterrey; Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros, Mexico City; Laboratorio de Arte Alameda, Mexico City; Michael Kohler Arts Center Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires. She has also participated in group exhibitions at El Museo del Barrio, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, and Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid.
STUDIO VISIT
MAXIMO GONZALEZ (B. 1971)
He studied Visual Arts at the “Josefina Contte” Higher Institute of Fine Arts and Languages. His artistic production is characterized by addressing reuse as a way of reclaiming discarded objects to transform them into works that question the value of materials, the official narratives of globalization, economic exchange and the art market.

In 2019 and 2016 he was a member of the Selection Committee of the National Fund for Culture and the Arts. The creativity and discursive force of his artistic proposal have earned him the 2015 Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development recognition, for his project “Changarrito”, and the 2014 ArtPrize, for his installation “I’m Hungry”.

ANA GALLARDO (B. 1958)
He was born in Rosario, Argentina, and has lived between Mexico, Spain and Buenos Aires.

He had no formal education, he is self-taught. He has a training acquired in the workshops of artists such as Victor Grippo, Miguel Dávila, Jorge Diciervo and Juan Doffo.

He has an inherited idea of how to go through artistic practices, since his parents were artists. His mother is a painter and his father is a poet.

In the 1980s he was a member of the X Group and with them he learned how art is thought.

He lived in Mexico from the late 80s and early 90s and worked in parallel on a series of independent projects aimed at promoting local art, giving visibility to practices that do not enter the commercial or institutional circuits and linked women artists, Mainly from different generations.

These activities have taken place in every space she has owned, including her own home. In the years 2005/2006 she carried out Periférica, the first fair of spaces self-managed by artists. Espacio Forest, was a project that she carried out in 2013.

DINNER AT TENCÜI
Fungi takes center stage at Tencüi. Located in the Santa María la Ribera neighborhood, this tiny restaurant by Mexican chef Mario Espinosa uses seven varieties of mushrooms — cultivated locally in Puebla, Estado de México, and Tlaxcala — to create a mostly vegetarian menu. Dishes might include braised vegetables with shiitake and enokitake, a mushroom escabeche with pate, or roasted huitlacoche cob with epazote and molcajete salsa. The drink menu doesn’t skimp on the restaurant’s theme, with options like a Negroni infused with mushroom extract.

Saturday
Feb 11, 2023

MUSEO ANAHUACALLI
Anahuacalli Diego Rivera Museum, built in 1963, is a jewel lost in the less touristy part of Coyoacán. It is an impressive stone temple-house, that Diego Rivera had built to make room for his collection of more than 59,000 pre-Columbian pieces. Anahuacalli is a Nahua word that means “The House of Anahuac” (known as the Valley of Mexico since pre-Hispanic times). It is a mystical place where they accommodate diverse artistic expressions like theatre, dance, painting and music. If you are lucky enough to visit this museum on the Day of the Dead, you’ll enjoy a massive “ofrenda” (offering) mounted in honor of Diego Rivera.

ALMA ALLEN (B. 1970)
Alma Allen began his practice by hand carving salvaged materials into unique small objects. Allen moved to New York in his early twenties and sold the miniature carvings on the street in SoHo, before catching the attention of designers nearby. After almost a decade in New York, Allen relocated to Los Angeles where he began designing furniture and creating large-scale sculptures. After repeated injury from obsessive over-carving left Allen unable to use his hands for extended periods, the artist built a robotic system out of spare assembly line parts and developed its proprietary software as a mechanized extension of hand-carving. Primarily constructed in stone, wood, and bronze, Allen’s sculptures are reminiscent of those by Constantin Brancusi.
and Isamu Noguchi, reflecting their ardor for experimentation, expressiveness, and originality. Allen’s process is organic and the material itself often dictates the final form—whether anthropomorphic or non-representational.

Alma Allen participated in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, where he gained recognition and a wider discovery of his work. He had his first solo exhibition at Blum & Poe, Los Angeles in January 2015 and later at Blum & Poe, New York in September 2016.

Recent group exhibitions include the deSaisset Museum, Santa Clara, CA and Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT. In Conversation: Alma Allen & JB Blunk, a two-person exhibition that began at the Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA in February 2018, traveled to the Nevada Museum of Art, Reno in Spring 2019. This exhibition staged an encounter between two artists who never met but whose work shares a deep affinity. The art of Alma Allen and JB Blunk blurs the line between design and sculpture, with both artists creating evocative organic work from natural materials. Allen currently lives and works in Tepoztlán, Mexico.

TETETLN
Although the food is very good at Tetetlán, it isn’t the main reason to stop by. There’s a huge menu of solid tacos, tlayudas, and pizzas that all feature local ingredients, but this is one of the most unique and eye-catching restaurants we’ve ever seen. Located next to one of the former Luis Barragan houses (Casa Pedregal, which you can and should visit), this huge space is a blend between the Barragan architecture and a more modern setup with a transparent floor exposing the natural volcanic lava stones, and a mix of strange (yet perfect) furniture. There’s a gigantic private book collection scattered throughout the space, which you can browse while eating (or look at post-meal with a carajillo on hand).

FRANCIS ALYS (B. 1959), THE NATURE OF THE GAME AT MUAC
In the course of his extensive travels around the world since 1999, Francis Alýs’ camera has captured children playing in public spaces. Like eating or sleeping, playing is an essential human need, and children’s games are universal. His informal, ethnographic films record both the power of cultural tradition and the carefree attitudes of children, even in situations of serious conflict. A group of Alýs’ small paintings—also made while travelling—depict a different take on reality, using his signature poetic realist style.

The Nature of the Game is the title of Francis Alýs’ exhibition for the Belgian Pavilion at the 2022 Venice Biennale. Curator Hilde Teerlinck and Francis Alýs realized the first iteration of this exhibition, which is re-adapted for this second presentation.

CASA PEDREGAL (FORMERLY CASA PRIETO LÓPEZ) LUIS BARRAGÁN
Sitting upon ancient lava beds of Xitle, Casa Pedregal is a hacienda style home built by architect Luis Barragán between 1947 and 1950 in the south of México City. His vision to develop this territory as an urbanization project allowed for a mini diaspora from the heavily populated center. The home is the largest private residence built by Barragán however “it’s a space built for maximum intimacy” explains César Cervantes Tezcucano, who sold his contemporary art collection and bought Casa Pedregal from its original owners the López Prieto family in 2014. Cervantes took to renovating and living at Casa Pedregal. His latest revelation is that the house forces nothing. The design invites you to effortlessly live it and to do what you want to do in it. Still a home, whose creator valued privacy above all, built with a capacity and forecast for another intention, greater social use and cultural intervention.