



LARC Resources on Mexican Muralists

Films

Art and Revolution in Mexico Documentary film dealing with the art of the Mexican Revolution as political movement and as revolution in art. 1982. English. 50 minutes.

Artistic Legacy of the Mexican Revolution This program traces the 1910 Mexican Revolution's impact on the Mexican-American communities in the southwest. This ten year civil war spawned a wave of immigration into the U.S. and gave rise to arts-related movements in mural painting, literature, and music. Displaced Mexican writers created the Mexican-American community's first Spanish language newspaper and later gave rise to its first civil rights movement. The lasting impact of the revolution on Mexican-American culture is discussed with historians, artists, and eye-witnesses to the changes the revolution created. 1999. English. 30 minutes.

Diego Rivera One of the most influential artists of the 20th century, he re-invigorated a long-overlooked technique. A man of immense bulk, talent and appetites, he is as famed for his excesses as for his artistic output. Diego Rivera came out of Mexico to become one of the most compelling artists of the 20th century. He brought his unique vision to public spaces--often through massive frescoes, a form that had languished for generations--inspiring artists and laymen alike. But his radical political views made him a controversial figure, and he is perhaps as well known today for his tempestuous relationship with the painter Frida Kahlo as for his own accomplishments. English. 50 minutes.

Diego Rivera: Art and Revolution In this program News Hour correspondent Jeffry Kaye surveys the life and artwork of Diego Rivera, a larger-than-life figure and one of the 20th century's truly revolutionary artists--both creatively and politically. Topics include Rivera's success in melding the painting styles of European Modernism with the art of ancient Mexico; his belief in the dignity of everyday life; the notorious Rockefeller Center mural; and his deep love of Mexico. 1999. English. 11 minutes.

Diego Rivera: I Paint What I See The first biographical film on the famed Mexican artist traces his life from childhood through his Cubist period, his leading role in the Mexican mural renaissance, his fame as a muralist in the USA, and his later years. The film explores Rivera's life and work, including his stormy relationship with Frida Kahlo and the destruction of his famous mural at

Rockefeller Center. Shot on location in Mexico and the United States, the film includes a remarkable collection of archival film and photographs, much of which has not been seen before. The text is drawn from the writings of Rivera and Kahlo and from other historical texts. Using Rivera's own words, this richly detailed film brings to life the difficulty he faced in his transition from studio artist to public and political artist, and the conflicts that arose from that point onward. 1989. Spanish with English subtitles. 58 minutes.

Donde digo Diego Rivera This program visits the Rivera Museum, which contains his works, the monuments of this life, and his superb collection of pre-Colombian artifacts. 1983. Spanish. 56 minutes.

Diego Rivera in the U.S. Shows Rivera's work in Detroit, San Francisco, and New York. Mentions the controversy surrounding some of his murals, in particular the one at the Rockefeller Center in New York, which included the face of Lenin before the outraged Rockefellers had the entire mural destroyed. Includes audio clips of interviews with Rivera. 1988. English. 60 minutes.

The Frescoes of Diego Rivera. The art and aesthetic of Diego Rivera, the "conscience of his age," are examined through his murals which blend themes of nature, humanity and revolution. Detroit Institute of Arts. 1986. Available on VHS ONLY. English. 37 minutes.

Frida Nominated for six 2002 Academy Awards, including Salma Hayek for Best Actress, FRIDA is the triumphant motion picture about an exceptional woman who lived an unforgettable life! A product of humble beginnings, Frida Kahlo (Hayek) earns fame as a talented artist with a unique vision. And from her enduring relationship with her mentor and husband, Diego Rivera, to her scandalous affairs, Frida's uncompromising personality would inspire her greatest creations! English. 123 minutes.

Frida: Naturaleza Viva Portrait of Frida Kahlo, her passionate life, her love of Diego Rivera, her relationship with Trotsky, her militancy, her feverish creativity, her profound loneliness. Directed by Paul Leduc. 1983. Spanish with English Subtitles. 108 minutes.

Frida Kahlo Profiles Frida Kahlo's work, her interest in politics and her tempestuous relationship with husband Diego Rivera, leader of the Mexican muralist movement. English. 62 minutes.

Jose Guadalupe Posada Posada, a witness to the Porfiriato and the Revolution, was one of the great explorers of the spirit of Mexico. The satire and tragedy of Mexican life and death were his subjects; his insights and artistic vision rank this precursor of Mexican muralism among the foremost Mexican artists. 1989. Spanish. 56 minutes.

L.E.A.R.: League of Revolutionary Artists and Women L.E.A.R. was formed in Mexico in 1934 with the goals of creating art and culture in support of and at service to the workers and to combat imperialism and fascism. Its members, who included Rivera and Siqueiros, shared a commitment to the fusion of art and politics. This documentary intersperses interviews of surviving members with murals, paintings, and poems. 1987. Spanish with English subtitles. 31 minutes.

The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo Chronicles the life and art of the great Mexican painter as never before, framing Kahlo's life in relationship to the historical and cultural influences that inspired her and defined the first half of the 20th century. Kahlo became an international sensation in the world of modern art and radical politics. Her life was a drama of personal extremes lived against a backdrop of political, social and artistic revolution. The film is an intimate biography of a woman who gracefully balanced a private life of illness and pain against a public persona that was flamboyant, irreverent, and world-renowned. It documents the career of the first modern Mexican painter to hang in the Louvre, and looks at her ambiguous relationship to her contemporaries and to avant-garde art, from cubism, to surrealism to the Mexican mural movement. 2004. English. 90 minutes

Mexican Murals: A Revolution on the Walls Examines these monumental creations not only for their great aesthetic value, but also as an essential and fascinating part of Mexico's history. The murals are examples of the marriage of art and political thought. Includes work of Rivera and Siqueiros. 1977. Spanish. 30 minutes.

Los murals del Palacio de Bellas Artes This video explores the creation of the extraordinary murals found in the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. Excellent documentation of the various murals by: Rivera, Siqueiros, Orozco, Tamayo and other artists who have contributed to the Palacio. Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes. 1997. Spanish. 57 minutes.

Siqueiros Jose David Alfaro Siqueiros was the Mexican muralist par excellence, making of muralism an art form that is at once monumental and personal in scale. Drawing on the pre-Hispanic roots of Mexican culture, he played a leading role in the political revolution of the '30's; the power of his art to persuade is testimony to its powerful voice. 1984. Spanish. 56 minutes.

Siqueiros: Artist and Warrior The life of Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros (1896-1974) was one of passion, political commitment and controversy, perilous adventure, and prolific artistic achievement. Together with Diego de Rivera and Jose Orozco, Siqueiros was a leader of the Mexican mural movement. While each of these artists were concerned with producing popular, public, and political art for a revolutionary society, Siqueiros was the most politically active of them all. A stormy, iconoclastic personality, he was one of the great desperadoes of modern art. Siqueiros regarded his life and painting as a

battle with himself and against social justice. A revolutionary, innovative and talented creator, he loved, fought and painted with extreme passion and with hot fury. 1998 English. 59 minutes.

The Walls of Mexico: Art and Architecture. This video looks at the wall paintings of some of the most popular Mexican muralists--Diego Rivera, Juan O'Gorman, Jose Clemente Orozco--and at the work of architect Luis Barragan. English. 56 minutes.

Books

Dreaming on a Sunday in the Alameda (and other plays by Carlos Morton). This innovative collection, featuring three plays by Carlos Morton, spans five centuries of Mexican and Mexican American history. In the tradition of teatro campesino, these plays represent provocative revisions of historical events. Includes: La Malinche (challenges the historical record of the tragic clash between Indians and Spaniards); Esperanzo (libretto for an opera, tells the story of Mexican miner who labored in 20th century Silver City, NM); and the title play, *Dreaming on a Sunday in the Alameda* (characters from a mural by Diego Rivera come to life to depict four centuries of Mexican history, including his wife Frieda Kahlo who steps out as a woman and artist in her own right). English. 168 pages.

Mexican Muralists: Orozco Rivera Siqueiros Explosive revolutionary energy and culminating in the social consciousness of the sixties, the Mexican mural movement represents one of the most powerful and significant achievements in public art during the twentieth century. This book follows the careers of the three most prominent artists of the movement, Jose Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera, and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Beautifully illustrated, this volume traces the lives and works of the legendary masters, from their rural childhoods through the bloody years of the revolution to artistic maturity and prestigious commissions from the post-revolutionary Mexican government. With stunning color reproductions of all the major murals, both those in Mexico and in the United States, the book locates the paintings in their cultural background and explores the artists achievements within the political framework of their homeland. *Mexican Muralists* tells the story of the artists who fostered an unprecedented marriage of politics and art, and in so doing forged a new national identity. 1993. English. 239 pages