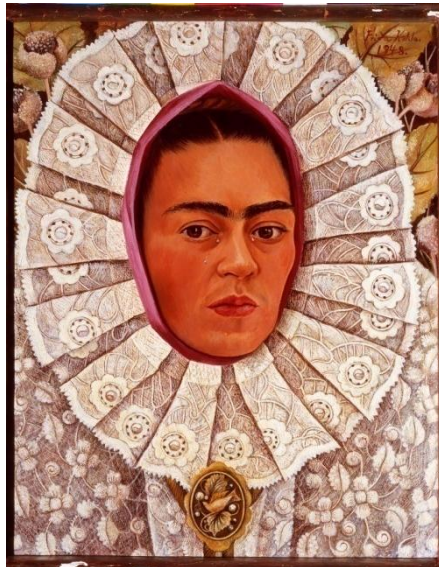


PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed till 14 November 2009

Camino a la Modernidad
The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting
15 November 2009 to 3 January 2010



Frida Kahlo, *Self-Portrait with Medallion*, 1948, Oil/Masonite, 50 cm x 40 cm, Private Collection

The Singapore Art Museum and the Embassy of Mexico proudly presents *Camino a la Modernidad, The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting*. The exhibition examines the myriad artistic languages that constitute the formation of Mexican modernism. *Camino a la Modernidad, The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting* is the largest Mexican art exhibition ever held in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

The exhibition will be opened by the Spouse of the President of Mexico, Mdm. Margarita Zavala on Saturday, 14 November, 4:00 pm at the Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum. Media preview led by Curator for *Camino a la Modernidad, The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting*, Ms. Michelle Ho and Director, Mr. Tan Boon Hui will be held on Tuesday, 17 November, 11:00 am at the Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum.

Camino a la Modernidad, The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting traces major developments in Mexican art from the 1900s to the 1950s, where Mexican society underwent tremendous changes in social and political spheres that impacted much of its artistic expression. The Mexican Revolution (1910) laid the foundation for a new artistic movement, Mexican Mural Renaissance, which attempted to bridge the class divide in the construction of a national identity and aesthetic, through bringing art to the masses in the form of highly accessible, outdoor public art murals. The exhibition features over 70 works from important Mexican public and private collections, including works by renowned mural artists Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, José Clemente Orozco, Roberto Montenegro, Rufino Tamayo, Maria Izquierdo and Frida Kahlo.

The exhibition is organised in three sections: Agents of Change, Charting New Territories and The Graphic Arts. Agents of Change highlight the aspect of artists being conscious of their roles as agents of social change, and many of them were aware of the need for art to be socially-conscious. The second section Charting New Territories shows how the artists attempt to break new ground in their art. We can see this in the exaltation of Mexican landscape as a hallmark of national identity, the development of industrial scenes as a new genre of Mexican landscape painting, as well as the exploration of abstract art by artists such as Germán Cueto, Carlos Mérida and Kishio Murata, as a means of crossing the boundaries of aesthetic definition. The Graphic Arts section presents the artists' belief in the idea of art as a communicative tool to the masses, and many of the illustrations here attempt to highlight the issues of the working classes and farming communities.

Says Director, Singapore Art Museum, Mr. Tan Boon Hui, "*Camino a la Modernidad, The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting* is the largest Mexican Art Exhibition ever to be showcased in Singapore and Southeast Asia. The exhibition examines the myriad artistic languages that constitute the formation of Mexican modernism. Through the selection of the artworks in this exhibition, we see how different artists interpreted the notions of 'modernity' and 'progress', and quite significantly, their mixed results. The Singapore Art Museum is privileged to work with the National Institute of Fine Arts in Mexico and the Embassy of Mexico in realising this magnificent exhibition."

Says Mr. Antonio Villegas, Ambassador-Designated of Mexico, Embassy of Mexico, "In 2010, Mexico will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of its Independence and 100th Anniversary of the Mexican revolution, *Camino a la Modernidad: The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting*. This is an exhibition that portrays the long history of Mexico and the vastness of the Mexican culture and art. We, at the Mexican Embassy in Singapore are very proud to share this heritage with the people of Singapore. This is the first time that such a magnificent collection of Mexican art, 25 of the artworks are National and Cultural Heritage and it is inaugurated during the official visit of the President of Mexico., H.E. Mr. Felipe Calderon to Singapore. Mdm. Margarita Zavala, Mexico's First Lady will be the Guest of Honour during the opening on Saturday, November 14th, 2009. The Embassy of Mexico hopes that this Exhibition could serve as an invitation to our friends in Singapore to visit Mexico to learn and experience our unique culture."

Camino a la Modernidad: The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting is on show at the Singapore Art Museum from 15 November 2009 to 3 January 2010.

Please refer to the following Annexes for more information:

- Annex A Key images from the exhibition
- Annex B Programmes in conjunction with the exhibition
- Annex C About Singapore Art Museum

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Monday to Sunday : 10am to 7pm, with extended hours and
FREE Admission on Friday from 6pm to 9pm

Singapore Art Museum is located at 71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore 189555.

For general enquiries, please contact front desk at 6332 3222.

For more information, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

Annex A Key images from the exhibition

Rufino Tamayo (1899-1991)

Self-Portrait

1946-1967

Oil on canvas

178 x 127 cm

Collection of the National Institute of Fine Arts
and Literature of Mexico, Modern Art Museum



Diego Rivera (1886-1957)

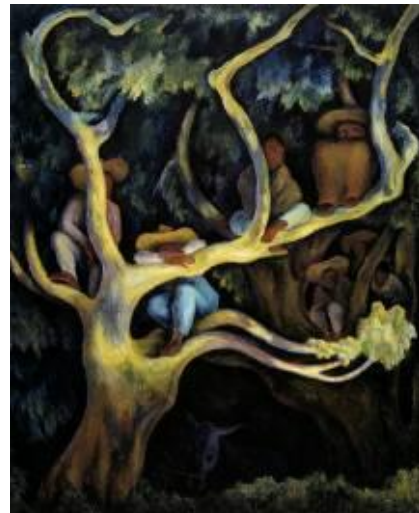
Night Landscape

1947

Oil on canvas

110 x 89.5 cm

Collection of the National Institute of Fine Arts
and Literature of Mexico, Modern Art Museum



Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)

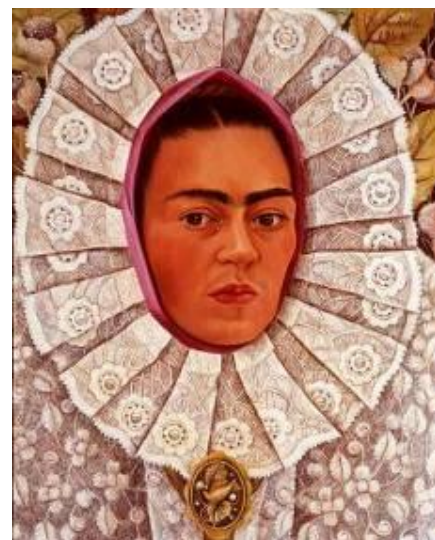
Self-Portrait with Medallion

1948

Oil on masonite

50 x 40 cm

Private Collection



Gabriel Fernández Ledesma (1900-1983)

Terrible Disaster

1928

Oil on canvas

69 x 53 cm

Collection of the National Institute of Fine Arts
and Literature of Mexico, Modern Art Museum



María Izquierdo (1902-1955)

Portrait of María Asúnsolo

1941

Oil on masonite

76 x 60 cm

Blaisten Collection



David Alfaro Siqueiros (1896-1974)

Cuauhtémoc

1946

Oil on plywood

130.3 x 116 cm

Collection of the National Institute of Fine Arts
and Literature of Mexico, National Art Museum



Annex B *Programmes in conjunction with Camino a la Modernidad, The Path to Modernity: Mexican Modern Painting*

Holiday Workshop: Experience Mexican Culture through Art

Mexico is the land of many faces and flavours. In this Holiday Workshop, children will learn to work with an expressive palette of colours in dyeing their own t-shirt or scarves and making their own simple Mexican dishes such as Nachos and dips.

Age group	5 to 11 years
Dates	Mon - Wed, 30 Nov - 2 Dec 09
Time	10am - 12:30pm
Venue	SAM at 8Q
Fees	\$120 for 3 sessions (inclusive of materials and Museum admission)

Curator's Tour: The Art of Mexico

Travel back in time to a tumultuous era in Mexico's history and see the evolution in painting styles and themes from the 1900s to the 1950s. How did the artists respond to the Mexican Revolution in 1910 and what role did the Mexican Mural Renaissance play in the creation of a national identity? Gain insight into the world of Mexican art through this tour by Curator, Ms. Michelle Ho.

Date	Fri, 27 Nov 09
Time	7:30pm - 8:30pm
Venue	SAM Lobby
Fees	Free. Registration Required.

Spanish guided tours

Spanish tours for the exhibition are available every Tuesday during the period of 17 November to 15 December 2009. Please register for the tour three working days in advance.

Registration Required. Please email nhb_sam_programs@nhb.gov.sg

Annex C About Singapore Art Museum

Opened in January 1996, the mission of the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is to preserve and present the art histories and contemporary art practices of Singapore and the Southeast Asian region. To date, SAM has amassed one of the world's largest public collection of modern and contemporary Southeast Asian artworks with a growing component in international contemporary art. The museum has presented shows covering both local and international art practices, traditional and cutting edge art expressions. Through strategic alliances with international arts and cultural institutions, SAM has been facilitating visual arts education, exchange, research and development within the region and internationally.