



David Alondra

Heart & Soul of Mexico

MID-20TH CENTURY DRAWINGS

Raúl Anguiano



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“My destiny was to come to Mexico to carry on my life and to take care of a national treasure: Raúl Anguiano in whom I would find everything that life has to offer.”

Brigita Anguiano



a Special *message*

It is with great pleasure that the Center is presenting “Heart and Soul of Mexico,” a bi-national collaboration. The exhibition is a selection of works by the esteemed Mexican painter and muralist, Raúl Anguiano, in conjunction with a collection of photographs of Mexico’s indigenous peoples by the acclaimed contemporary Mexican photographer, Mario Castillo.

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1915, Raúl Anguiano’s lifetime work focused on presenting the people of Mexico as they transitioned from rural life to the modern world from the 1930s to the 1950s and beyond. The exhibition features a rare collection of over 100 pieces, never shown previously in the United States, depicting the customs, celebrations and traditions of Mexico. Many feature the indigenous people whom he considered to be the spirit of the country and an international symbol for humanity.

We are delighted to be incorporating a special educational component for children from our community. Just one example is our invitation to school children to see the exhibition and then go home and sketch a parent or grandparent in the style of Anguiano. Each month during the exhibition, the children will be invited back with their families to have their sketches displayed in the Museum.

Brigita Anguiano, widow of Maestro Anguiano is lending part of her private collection for the exhibition and we are very proud to include her on our Honorary Committee.

The Consul General of Mexico in San Diego, Remedios Gómez Arnau introduced the idea of the exhibition to us and we are honored that she has graciously agreed to serve as chair of the Honorary Committee. Furthermore, Virgilio Muñoz, director of the Tijuana Cultural Center, has joined us in this international collaboration, and has provided extraordinary technical and creative assistance and support for the exhibition. We are most grateful to all the community and arts leaders who have joined our Honorary and Event Committees. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend a warm welcome to everyone who comes to the Center and hope you enjoy seeing this exhibition of exceptional works.

Carina Courtright

Chair, Board of Trustees

California Center for the Arts, Escondido

“Raúl Anguiano is the herald of a country returning to the sources of its art, but he refuses to copy the ways of the ancient people. Without alienating his aesthetic and ethnic personality, he re-vindicates all the main conquests of modern art. Thus, bending the extremity of provincialism or regionalism, conferring to his work a character of universality. He does not emulate occidental painters. He keeps on being Indo-American and imposes himself as such. But, at the same time that he uses the subjects so narrowly bonded to Mexico’s life, its soul, its people, its history and its tragedy, he encounters those heavily bodies of European art, the German painters of the “Dances of the Dead”, Jerome Bosch and Orcagna, Goya and James Ensor.”

Waldemar George, French art critic



Portrait of Margarita, 1942

Pencil on paper



My Grandmother, 1940

Sketch for oil



Waiting, 1938

Gouache on paper

“The art of Raúl Anguiano is recognizably, undeniably Mexican.

A leading exponent of the monumental Mexican School of Painting, Anguiano reveals the spirit of Mexico through his dynamic portrayals of its indigenous people. For him the Indians represent the soul of the country. They are fundamentally human: proud, self-reliant, and eternal symbol of man as children of the earth.”

Anne Phillips



Festivity in Santa Cruz Acapulixca II, 1950

Brown ink



Scavenger, 1939

Brown ink on paper

Raúl Anguiano was one of the most prominent Mexican artists of the 20th century and member of the second generation of muralists of the Mexican School of Painting which embraced the artistic tradition of Rivera, Orozco and Siqueiros. Born during the height of the Mexican Revolution, he incorporated many aspects of the struggle into his murals. Anguiano grew up in Guadalajara and, as a young adult, he moved to Mexico City to begin his career as an artist. He had his first major exhibition at the Palace of Fine Arts in 1935.

Anguiano's works have been included in more than 150 individual and group art exhibits around the world. His murals, totaling nearly 50, can be appreciated in numerous locations in Mexico and the United States. His work can be found in many museums including the Museum of Modern Art, NY; the Smithsonian Institution; the Museum of Modern Art, Mexico City; the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, Santa Ana, CA., and the Vatican Museum.

the Path of a lifetime

Raúl Anguiano, 1915-2006

Curriculum, biography and selected exhibitions

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- 1915**
Anguiano was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, on February 26.
- 1927** Anguiano begins his studies in Guadalajara at the "Escuela Libre de Pintura", at the Museum of the state of Jalisco.
- 1934** He moves to Mexico City and begins working as art teacher.
- 1936**
He has his first exhibition, together with Máximo Pacheco, at the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City:
- 1937** Founding member of the Popular Graphics Workshop (Taller de Gráfica Popular).
- 1938** He organizes two exhibitions in La Havana, Cuba.
- 1940** He participates in the group exhibition "Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art" at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), in New York City, USA.
- 1949**
He is a member of the expedition to the Lacandon jungle and Bonampak, organized by the National Institute of Fine Arts.
- 1952** Henri Tronche Gallery, first solo exhibition in Paris, France.
- 1960** He travels constantly throughout Mexico to study about the indigenous groups.
- 1964**
He paints three important murals for the National Anthropology Museum in Mexico City:
- 1967** The Italian government honors him with the title of "Commendatore", Rome, Italy.
- 1978** He marries Brigita Liepins. From this date on, he travels constantly to Huntington Beach, CA.
- 1988** The government of the State of Jalisco honors him with the "Jalisco Prize".
- 1990** Exhibition-Homage for his 75th Anniversary, at the Tijuana Cultural Center, in Tijuana, B.C.
- 1991** Exhibition-Homage at the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City.
- 1994** The Casa de Cultura Raúl Anguiano is inaugurated in Huayamilpas, Coyoacan, Mexico City.
- 1996** Anguiano, 81st Anniversary, Anderson Art Gallery, Sunset Beach, CA., USA.
- 2000**
He paints the mural "Los Mayas" at the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, Santa Ana, CA., USA.
- 2001** He paints the mural "Preservación de la Naturaleza", at the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), in Mexico City.
- 2002** He paints a mural titled "Biography of the Mexican Painting", at the East Los Angeles College, in Los Angeles, CA., USA.
- 2003** The Raúl Anguiano Museum is inaugurated in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- 2004** He is acknowledged with the title "Doctor Honoris Causa" by the Autonomous University of Hidalgo, Mexico.
- 2005** To celebrate his 90th anniversary, he is honored with several exhibitions at a national level.
- 2006** He passes away on January 13, in Mexico City.
- 2007**
The Sala Anguiano Gallery is founded in Tijuana, B.C., Mexico.
- 2009**
Venus, Homage to Raúl Anguiano, at the Tijuana Cultural Center, Tijuana, Mexico.
- 2010** "Generations, paintings by Raúl Anguiano", at the San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA. USA.
- 2012** Two Realities, The Surrealist Experiments of Raúl Anguiano, Museo Nacional de Arte (MUNAL), Mexico City.



The California Center for the Arts, Escondido
proudly presents

Heart & Soul of Mexico



Circus Scene, 1939

Brown ink

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Raúl Anguiano

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340 North Escondido Blvd.

Escondido, CA 92025

(760) 839-4138

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Exhibition Advisor: Pedro Ochoa
Coordinator: Laura Reinert
Exhibition Design: Gabriel Terrones and José Guadalupe Sandoval
Graphic Design: Claudia Reinert

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