

Smithsonian Institution

Press Release

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Smithsonian Latino Center Presents

“Myth, Mortals and Immortality: Works from Museo Soumaya de México”

“Myth, Mortals and Immortality: Works from Museo Soumaya de México” kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month at the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibition, organized by the Smithsonian Latino Center and the Museo Soumaya in Mexico City, features approximately 100 works by Mexico’s most renowned artists including Diego Rivera, Rufino Tamayo, José Agustín Arrieta, Juan Soriano and David Alfaro Siqueiros. The pieces, which span the 16th to the 20th century, are on view at the Smithsonian International Gallery from Sept. 14 through Nov. 2.

“We are thrilled to be working with Museo Soumaya to provide this opportunity for all Smithsonian visitors to learn more about Mexican culture through these remarkable works of art,” said Pilar O’Leary, executive director of the Smithsonian Latino Center. “An exhibit of such depth and range honors the spirit of Hispanic Heritage Month and inspires a strong sense of pride and appreciation for Latino cultural contributions.”

“Myth, Mortals and Immortality” explores issues that define Mexican art and have prevailed throughout the centuries—the fusion of indigenous and European traditions; naturalism and fantasy; the search for identity; rituals surrounding death and art as a part of everyday life, activism and an agent of social change. Among the works on display, are rare treasures such as Diego Rivera’s larger than life-size sketch for the 1952 mural “Nightmare of War, Dream of Peace.” This sketch is all that remains of the mural, which was lost during a traveling exhibition in 1957.

“In order to get to know a country you need to see its art; life made object in a clear language that speaks truth straight from the spirit,” said Soumaya Slim de Romero, director of Museo Soumaya. “Like a seismograph, art registers the deepest movements of mortals.”

The Smithsonian Latino Center is a division of the Smithsonian Institution established to ensure that Latino contributions to art, science and the humanities are highlighted, understood and advanced through the development and support of public programs, scholarly research, museum collections and educational opportunities at the Institution and its affiliated organizations across the United States and internationally. For more information, visit <http://www.latino.si.edu>.

Museo Soumaya, a part of the Carso Foundation, is a non-profit cultural institution that aims to collect, research, preserve and exhibit Mexican and European art. Its mission is to promote knowledge and enjoyment of art through permanent and temporary exhibitions, publications, conferences, film cycles and other outreach programs. The museum’s collection includes European masters from the 15th century to the 18th century, the second largest Rodin collection outside of France and modern works by Picasso, Dalí, Siqueiros and Rivera.

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