



Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art

FOFA UPDATE

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www.fofa.us

FOFA's NYC Inaugural/Fundraising Event is a Smashing Success!

by Joyce Grossbard, Secretary and Member of *FOFA* Board of Directors

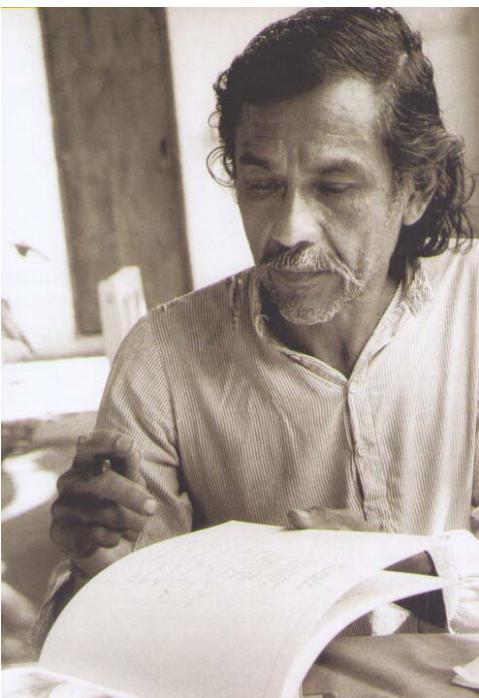
Our NYC launch event (Oct. 2007) was a terrific success thanks to the tireless effort and generous contributions of many, many people. Over 200 supporters joined in and a great time was had by all at this lively celebration.

Everyone was there to support the extraordinary and valiant artisans of Oaxaca in one way or another, by donating art work and other fantastic Oaxacan treats for our auction, bidding vigorously, setting up, bringing friends, creating inviting promotional materials, and so many other ways. Of special note were the treasures donated by Oaxacan artisans who, moved by *FOFA's* effort to help, gave folk art pieces to raise funds for their less fortunate friends.

Creative, delectable botanas were catered by Chef Aaron Sanchez of the TV Food Network, and superb cocktails were prepared by Marissa Sanchez of Paladar Restaurant, with the spirits donated by a generous group of vendors.



Our venue, "205," in the heart of the vibrant Lower East Side (donated by David Schlachet and Guy Jacobsen) was the perfect place to celebrate the art and artisans of Oaxaca. Thanks to everyone for your contributions! Be sure to check out the photos of the event on our website, at www.fofa.us.



Maestro Francisco Toledo Honors *FOFA* by Joining the Advisory Board

by Arden Rothstein, President and Member of Board of Directors, *FOFA*

We are delighted to announce that Maestro Francisco Toledo has agreed to join our Advisory Board. He is Mexico's most famous contemporary artist whose work is exhibited all over the world, as well as an intellectual, cultural and moral leader of his people. A native Zapotec son and resident of Oaxaca City, Maestro Toledo wears many remarkable hats. In an addition to his extraordinary artistic expression in a remarkable range of media, he has most generously and creatively spearheaded a wide spectrum of conservationist, educational and political causes (an art school, a recycled paper factory, a library, an organic market, a botanical garden, a modern art gallery, a photographic gallery, preventing the installation of McDonalds in Oaxaca's zocalo, to name a few).



FOFA Sponsors Trip to Toledo Exhibition at Princeton University Art Museum

By Cristina Cotumaccio, *FOFA* Member

The December 1st *FOFA* event at Princeton University's art museum was a tremendous success! Thirty-three eager members enjoyed an informative and lively day immersed in the art and life of the renowned Oaxacan native Maestro Francisco Toledo. We were fortunate to have Graciela Kartofel who offered an intimate perspective on both the artist and the world of Latin American contemporary art. Graciela's profound knowledge and engaging nature brought to life many of the unique aspects of Toledo's work, and provided a useful framework from which to analyze and appreciate the underlying themes of his art as she toured us through the gallery. After a tasty Latino lunch, the group enjoyed a video presentation that offered even deeper insight into the artist, his life and work, as it included an interview of Toledo himself, whose humble presence and compelling dialogue had a powerful effect.

On the return trip to Manhattan, we had the opportunity to view a recent documentary about the teacher protests and popular uprising which occurred in Oaxaca during 2006, "Un Poquito de Tanta Verdad," a moving story that reinforced the purpose that unites *FOFA*'s members.

In all, the Toledo /Princeton trip was an extremely rewarding and instructive experience with a group of energetic participants whose varied backgrounds made it all the more interesting! Thanks go to Kate Mellina for her impeccable attention in organizing every aspect of this trip.

Upcoming Events

(watch for details at www.fofa.us)

Spring, 2008

Mezcal Tasting Fundraiser! Proceeds to go for the exhibition catalog, "Nurturing the Next Generation of Oaxacan Folk Artists"

July, 2008

Jurying of artistic submissions (ceramics, woodcarving and painting, weaving) for exhibition to open in October, 2008, Museo Estatal de Arte Popular Oaxaca (MEAPO)

October, 2008

Opening of exhibition "Nurturing the Next Generation of Oaxacan Folk Artists," Museo Estatal de Arte Popular Oaxaca (MEAPO)

Spring, 2009

US Opening of exhibition "Nurturing the Next Generation of Oaxacan Folk Artists," New York, NY



Francisco Toledo, Self-Portrait XXXVIII, 2000

FOFA Mission Statement

Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art (*FOFA*) supports the preservation and promotion of folk art traditions of Oaxaca, Mexico, which are endangered by economic challenges in the region that significantly impact the folk art community. Our projects are designed to provide (1) public exposure (both in Mexico and the US) to raise awareness, appreciation and marketability of these art forms; (2) encouragement to young Mexican folk artists to pursue and refine their crafts—in view of their uncertainty about folk art as a viable livelihood and their attraction to modernization that promotes migration—in order to preserve folk art traditions for generations to come; and (3) assistance to *artesano* communities to enhance market opportunities. *FOFA* does not provide direct financial support to any individual or family, but works through existing organizations (such as the State Folk Art Museum of Oaxaca) to identify and develop our projects.